

● POLITY

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ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

WHOLESALE PRICES CONTINUE TO FALL

India's wholesale prices continued to experience deflation for the fifth consecutive month in August, although the rate of decline narrowed to 0.52% compared to July's 1.36%. This moderation in deflation was primarily driven by fuel and power prices, which saw a year-on-year decline of -6% in August, a significant improvement from July's -12.8%.

Falling prices

Wholesale prices fell marginally year-over-year in August despite wholesale food inflation remaining elevated



■ Vegetable prices rose 48.4% in August compared with 62.1% in July; onion prices rose 31.4% in August, compared with 7.1% in July

■ WPI, however, moved up sequentially for the second successive month, rising 0.33% in August compared with 2.01% in July

■ The govt. attributed wholesale deflation to the fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals, etc.

However, on a sequential basis, the Wholesale Price Index recorded inflation for the second month in a row, with a 0.33% increase in August, compared to 2.01% in July. Fuel and power costs rose by 3% sequentially, marking an end to several months of declines, while prices of manufactured products increased marginally by 0.14%.

The negative inflation rate was attributed to falling prices in various sectors, including mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals, textiles, and food products. While the wholesale food index rose by 5.6%, primary food inflation remained high at 10.6% in August, down from a decade-high of 14.3% in July. Vegetable prices increased by 48.4%, a decrease from the 62.1% rise seen in July.

Inflation in cereals reached a three-month low of 7.25% in August, but prices of paddy and pulses surged by 9.2% and 10.5%, respectively, the highest rates in at least six months. Onion prices also rose significantly by 31.4% in August. Milk prices saw inflation ease to a six-month low of 7.8% but remained only slightly lower than the 8.15% recorded in July.

Economists anticipate that wholesale prices will rebound in the coming months, ending the deflationary trend.

ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

PMMSY: BRIDGING GAPS IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

In 2020, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Atmanirbhar Bharat package for the fisheries sector, allocating ₹20,050 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the largest-ever investment in Indian fisheries. PMMSY focused on various aspects of the fisheries value chain, from production to post-harvest management, technology adoption, and marketing.

After three years of implementation, PMMSY has achieved significant milestones, including:

- Expanding inland fisheries and promoting technology adoption, encouraging youth and entrepreneurs to enter the sector.
- Extending fisheries to non-traditional areas, converting saline waste lands into productive aquaculture sites in regions like Haryana and Rajasthan.
- Empowering fisherwomen to explore alternative livelihoods such as ornamental fisheries, pearl culture, and seaweed cultivation.
- Establishing key infrastructure, including fish feed plants, hatcheries, and research initiatives to improve shrimp production.
- India's rise as one of the world's top three countries in fish and aquaculture production and the largest shrimp exporter globally.

The government has recently announced an additional ₹6,000 crore investment as part of PMMSY, bringing the total investment in fisheries to over ₹38,500 crore in the last nine years. This investment, combined with the government's commitment, is strengthening the developmental partnership with fishermen and harnessing the potential of the Blue Economy.

In conclusion, PMMSY has played a crucial role in advancing the Indian fisheries sector and supporting the livelihoods of fishermen, aligning with the vision of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas.'



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ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

GOVT. LIMITS WHEAT STOCKS TO CONTROL PRICE RISE, HOARDING

To curb rising wheat prices and prevent hoarding, the Indian government has lowered the stock limits for wheat held by traders, wholesalers, retailers, and processors across all states and Union Territories. The new limit is set at 2,000 Metric Tonnes (MT), down from the previous 3,000 MT.

Those holding stocks above the prescribed limit have been given 30 days to bring them down. Failure to comply will result in punitive action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The government aims to prevent artificial scarcity and maintain stable wheat prices, currently averaging ₹30 per kilogram at the retail level.

Officials from both central and state governments will monitor compliance closely. Additionally, the government reassured the public that there will be no significant price increases in essential food items ahead of the festive season, thanks to adequate stocks and vigilant measures against hoarding.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

LIMITS OF IDENTITY

The ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur is marred by the failure of civil society groups to set aside their ethnic affiliations and work towards peace. For example, the Meira Paibi, a group of Meitei women known for their activism against various issues, has recently disrupted the efforts of the Assam Rifles to maintain peace in the "buffer zones" designed to prevent further violence between ethnic communities. Both Kuki-Zo and Meitei groups have looted weapons, exacerbating the situation.

The state government, local police, and armed forces struggle to restore peace due to support from certain civil society groups for those involved in violence. Some Meira Paibi members even reject the concept of buffer zones as "unconstitutional." While having armed forces involved in peacekeeping is not ideal, in Manipur's current circumstances, it's necessary to prevent further escalation.

Civil society organizations like the Meira Paibi should transcend their narrow ethnic identities to seek justice for women affected by the conflict and build solidarity networks for reconciliation and peace. Unfortunately, this is not happening at the moment. Civil society groups, fueled by ethnic hatred and past trauma, have contributed to the cycle of violence, just as some political representatives have.

History shows that non-partisan leadership and civic dialogue among civil society and political representatives are crucial for achieving a breakthrough in such situations. To make this possible in Manipur, there must be a credible alternative to the current state leadership.

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

CHANGING THE WAY THE POSTMAN KNOCKS

GIST

The new Post Office Bill (2023) aims to modernize the functioning of post offices, replacing the outdated Indian Post Office Act (1898). It recognizes the changing role of post offices, which now serve as a platform for providing various citizen-centric services beyond traditional mail delivery.

Key changes in the bill:

Flexibility in Pricing: The bill grants the Director General of Postal Services the authority to set charges for services offered by post offices without the need for parliamentary approval. This flexibility allows the postal department to respond quickly to market demands and remain competitive.

Security Measures: The central government is empowered to intercept, open, or detain postal items in the interest of national security, foreign relations, public order, emergencies, or public safety. This provision is essential to prevent smuggling and the illegal transportation of drugs and contraband goods through postal parcels.

Digital Addressing: The bill introduces standards for addressing, address identifiers, and the usage of post codes. This provision opens the door for the use of digital codes and geo-spatial coordinates to identify specific locations, potentially enabling more efficient sorting and accurate delivery of mail and parcels. It may also pave the way for future delivery methods like drones.

Exclusive Privilege Removed: The bill eliminates the provision that gave the central government exclusive rights to convey letters by post and perform related services. This change reflects the reality of a competitive courier industry and removes the legal debates over what constitutes a "letter."

In summary, the new Post Office Bill 2023 modernizes the postal system, provides flexibility in pricing, enhances security measures, introduces digital addressing, and acknowledges the evolving communication landscape by removing the exclusive privilege of the central government in letter delivery.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

LIQUIDATING THE HAND PUMP

As part of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to bring piped water to every rural household in India, many villages in Mahoba district, Uttar Pradesh, have experienced a significant improvement in access to water. The percentage of households with taps has surged from 1.2% in 2019 to 97.5% in 2023. This transformation has lightened the load on women, who previously had to manually fetch water.

For instance, Sandhya Kumari, a resident of Shivhar village, recalls the days when she had to make multiple trips to the neighborhood tube well to fetch water for her family's needs. However, the installation of taps in her village and others like it in Mahoba has changed the daily routine for the better. The government's Har Ghar Jal initiative, costing ₹3.6 trillion, has provided running water to many households, eliminating the need for manual pumping.

Despite significant progress, India still faces challenges related to water access, especially in regions like Bundelkhand, where the terrain is rocky, making groundwater scarce. Hand pumps have historically been crucial for accessing water in such areas. The India Mark-2 hand pump, a widely adopted design, helped overcome earlier challenges, but it still requires maintenance and can be unreliable.

The Har Ghar Jal initiative aims to eventually make hand pumps obsolete by providing piped water connections to households. Piped water not only eases the burden on women but also reduces dependence on groundwater, which is often overexploited. Water treatment plants have been established across the country to ensure the quality of piped water.

However, the transition to piped water is not without its challenges. Some villagers still prefer hand pump water, citing taste preferences and concerns about the quality of piped water. The lack of centralized or individual storage tanks in many villages also contributes to this preference.

In conclusion, while the Har Ghar Jal initiative has made significant strides in improving water access in rural India, there is still work to be done in ensuring that piped water becomes the preferred and accepted source for drinking water in these areas.

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

L-G TO LAUNCH ANTI-CORRUPTION PORTAL

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena is set to unveil an anti-corruption portal. This new portal, called the Vigilance Complaint Information Management System (VCIMS), will change how complaints are handled. Departments and the Vigilance Directorate will no longer accept physical complaints. Instead, the VCIMS portal will be the primary channel. It's designed to be anonymous, ensuring the confidentiality of complainants.

To maintain the integrity of the system, individuals filing complaints must provide an electronic statement (e-undertaking). Falsely accusing public servants may result in prosecution under Section 182 of the IPC.

However, some from the Chief Minister's Office see this move as unfortunate, believing that the Lieutenant-Governor's office is overstepping its bounds by launching the portal, especially in light of the Supreme Court's directive that most powers should rest with the elected government, with exceptions for land, law and order, and police.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

DELHI GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH ACTION PLAN AGAINST POLLUTION ON OCTOBER 1

Context: The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will announce a full-fledged winter action plan for the city on October 1.

The plan will be based on 15 focus points. 15 points have been identified and different departments have been asked to submit their plans by September 25.

The 15 points that have been identified as – pollution hot spots, stubble pollution, vehicular pollution, open garbage burning, industrial pollution, green war room, real-time apportionment study, a complete ban on firecrackers and various others.

The government had earlier banned the sale, production and storage of firecrackers.

There will be a separate action plan for 13 pollution hotspots to curb pollution.





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ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

UNRAVELING 2030 GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL

CONTEXT: COP28 presidency seeks global agreement to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, but challenges warrant caution.

DEVELOPMENT SO FAR:-

- In 2021, global renewable energy capacity reached 3026 GW, making up 39% of total capacity but only contributing 28% to electricity generation.
- Tripling renewable capacity by 2030 to 9000 GW is a challenging goal, requiring the addition of 6000 GW.
- Solar and wind energy are expected to drive this growth, given shorter construction times compared to hydropower.
- Assuming a 25% capacity utilization factor for solar and wind, meeting the target would yield 13,000 TWh of renewable electricity.
- Achieving this target would mean that 38% of global electricity production comes from renewables, assuming a 2.6% annual growth in demand.

Regionally differentiated energy needs

Global electricity demand isn't uniform; it varies among countries and is growing rapidly in developing nations like China and India, contrasting with slower growth or decline in the EU and the U.S. To achieve the goal of tripling renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030, the EU and the U.S. must expedite the phaseout of fossil fuels.

The share of RE capacity required depends on fossil fuel use. A full phaseout would distribute responsibility fairly and facilitate developing nations' transition to cleaner energy. This would also prevent developed nations from consuming the lion's

share of the remaining carbon budget with their substantial fossil fuel capacity.

Mysterious Origin of Global RE Goal.

- COP28's call for a global renewable energy (RE) target lacks transparency in its origin.
- It draws inspiration from an IRENA report, aiming to triple RE capacity to over 11 TW by 2030, similar to an inequitable scenario discussed.
- The IRENA analysis shows that non-RE capacity growth is concentrated in developing regions, with Sub-Saharan Africa and India facing substantial RE capacity demands.
- The approach of projecting installed capacity without considering energy demand growth is criticized, as it risks supply instability and requires substantial non-RE capacity.
- Meeting such ambitious targets also raises concerns about financing, grid infrastructure, and storage options in developing countries.

Targets for 'thee but not for me'

Vocal supporters of tripling global renewable energy (RE) capacity lack domestic targets. India pledged 500GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, but the U.S. and EU lack specific RE targets, relying on broader decarbonization goals. These targets are market signals, not binding commitments. Developing nations, notably India, should endorse the global RE goal only if developed nations commit to equitable and absolute domestic RE targets under the Paris Agreement's updated Nationally Determined Contributions, ensuring shared responsibility in addressing climate change.

Year- End Review 2022- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- India stands 4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (including Large Hydro), 4th in Wind Power capacity & 4th in Solar Power capacity
- A total of 172.72 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources installed in the country as on 31.10.2022, including 119.09 GW RE, 46.85 GW Large Hydro and 6.78 GW Nuclear Power capacity
- Generation from non-fossil fuel sources is 42.26% of total installed generation capacity in the country
- A total of 14.21 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) capacity added during the period Jan to Oct. 2022 as compared to capacity of 11.9 GM' added during the period January to October 2021
- As on 31-10-2022, 56 Solar Parks sanctioned with a cumulative capacity of 39.28 GW in 14 states
- As on 31.10.2022, cumulatively over 1.52 lakh stand-alone solar pumps installed under the Component-B and 73.45 MW cumulative capacity solar power plants installed under Component-A

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR (SSB) PRIZES

CONTEXT: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has finally announced the delayed Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prizes for outstanding young scientists.

BACKGROUND: The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prizes, awarded annually to outstanding Indian scientists under 45, faced a delay due to the government's plan to reduce the number of prizes for scientists. Despite concerns about their discontinuation, the Ministry of Home Affairs ultimately retained the SSB prizes, known as the "Indian Nobel."

NEED TO IMPROVE: Science awards honor long-term contributions and encourage scientists in a financially challenging field. The recent Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize winners are all male and primarily from centrally-funded institutions. Expanding the awards to include more diversity is advocated, aligning with India's commitment to inclusivity and opportunity beyond privileged enclaves.



- Credit: Hindustan Times

About The Award

- **Inception:** Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes were established in 1958 to honor outstanding contributions to science and technology in India.
- **Categories:** The awards are presented annually in various categories, including Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, and more.
- **Prestigious:** SSB Prizes are among India's most prestigious scientific awards, recognizing exceptional researchers for their pioneering work.
- **Named after:** Named after the eminent Indian scientist Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, these awards celebrate his legacy in the field of science.
- **Impact:** The recognition and financial support provided by these awards have significantly boosted scientific research and innovation in India over the years.

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education. — Martin Luther King Jr.



ART AND CULTURE

MY HOME INDIA ORGANISES NEST FEST IN NEW DELHI

Organized by My Home India, NEST Fest is an annual gathering designed to facilitate the integration and adjustment of students hailing from the Northeastern states as they venture to Delhi and other cities for their higher education. The primary objective is to extend a warm welcome to young individuals from both the Northeast and other regions, fostering a sense of unity among them. This year's festivities will encompass live performances by versatile artists such as Soma Laishram, Neel Akash, Rito Riba, Imnainla Jamir, and Esther Hnamte. Additionally, the event will showcase traditional cultural elements, including the enchanting bamboo dance from Mizoram and the captivating Loha dance from Meghalaya.



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim collectively constitute the eight states situated in the northeastern region of India. These states hold significant importance in the country, not only due to their geographical location but also owing to their rich cultural and historical distinctiveness. They are often referred to as the "eight siblings," commonly known as the "eight sisters" or sometimes as "seven sisters and one brother."

Covering an expansive area of 2,63,179 square kilometers, which accounts for approximately eight percent of the country's total landmass, these states are home to around 3.76 percent of the national population. Remarkably, nearly 98 percent of their borders are international boundaries. Nestled amidst picturesque hills and meandering rivers, these states are part of the eastern Himalayan ranges, Patkai-Naga hills, and are intertwined with the Brahmaputra-Barak river systems and valley plains.





Abundant in natural resources and teeming with diverse flora and fauna, this region serves as a gateway to East and Southeast Asia. The states possess unique cultures and are characterized by a multitude of ethnic groups, serving as a shining example of unity in diversity. The presence of various ethnic groups, languages, and religions vividly reflects the multi-cultural essence of these states.

This region is home to over 200 of the 635 tribal groups in the country, each speaking various Tibeto-Burman languages and dialects. States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland predominantly comprise tribal communities, each exhibiting its own distinctiveness. In contrast, states like Assam, Manipur, Tripura, and Sikkim boast a diverse population, with adherents of various religious denominations such as Hindus, Christians, and Muslims coexisting alongside local tribes and communities.

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh stands as the largest among the northeastern states in India, renowned for its ethnic and linguistic diversity. Notably, it is home to Tawang, where one of the most ancient and extensive Buddhist monasteries in India can be found.

Assam

Assam, distinguished by its breathtaking natural beauty featuring rivers like the Brahmaputra and Barak, claims the position of the second-largest and most populous state in the North East. Assam boasts two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Kaziranga National Park and the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary. The state is also globally acclaimed for producing some of the finest tea. Furthermore, Assam is famous for the Kamakhya temple, a revered Shakti-Peeth in India, and Srimanta Sankardeva, a multifaceted saint in Indian history.

Manipur

Manipur, nestled along the eastern border of the North East and sharing its boundaries with Myanmar, is a picturesque

state steeped in a rich history of culturally advanced kingdoms. This state is credited with the origin of the game 'Sagol Kangjei' (Polo) and 'Ras-Lila,' a recognized classical dance form of India. Recent times have also seen the noteworthy contributions of Manipuri women to social reform and sports. Iconic landmarks in Manipur include the INA Memorial, Loktak Lake, and Ima Keithel.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya, with its capital in Shillong, is characterized by its plateau terrain with varying elevations, earning it the moniker 'Scotland of the East.' Mawsynram, situated on the southern slopes of the Khasi hills within the state, receives the highest rainfall in the world. Meghalaya stands out for its unique matrilineal system and is home to some of the finest educational institutions in the region, boasting a high literacy rate.

Mizoram

Mizoram, a hilly state in the North East, is predominantly inhabited by a homogeneous tribal population. The Lushai language is widely spoken, and Christianity is followed by nearly all Mizos. The state has earned recognition for its peaceful and stable political environment, coupled with significant social and economic development in recent years.

Nagaland

Nagaland, primarily a tribal state on the eastern border, is characterized by its hilly terrain and the courageous Naga people. Kohima, the capital, played a pivotal role during World War II when the Japanese invaded British India. The Kohima War Cemetery, a poignant tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Kohima in 1944, is a prominent tourist attraction.

Tripura

Tripura, sharing its border with Bangladesh, has strong cultural ties with Bengal and the tribal regions of Assam and Mizoram. The Tripuris, the largest tribal community in the state, form its societal core. With a predominantly hilly landscape and a warm, humid tropical climate, Tripura's economy relies heavily on agriculture. Notable figures like musician S.D. Burman and gymnast Dipa Karmakar have brought fame to the state and the nation.

Sikkim

Sikkim, a small and bowl-shaped state with Gangtok as its capital, boasts a hilly terrain that is accessible from the plains of Bengal. Renowned for its Himalayan flora, fauna, and Buddhist monasteries, Sikkim is famous for producing Temi tea, a unique variety. Its Himalayan location makes it a major attraction for tourists.



The travails of gig workers

A survey report on food delivery partners by the National Council of Applied Economic Research validates several common beliefs, such as workers being young graduates who work extended hours for better pay and independence. However, the study also reveals new insights: a sizeable portion of them are sole breadwinners and a notable share experienced a drop in incomes compared to their previous jobs. The findings indicate a decline in their real incomes over time even as the share of income that they spent on fuel had risen, resulting in a double whammy. **By The Hindu Data Team**

■ While a majority said they switched jobs to earn a higher income, their real monthly income fell from ₹13,500 a month in 2019 to ₹12,000 in 2022, due to inflation

■ A significant share of them spent a sizeable amount buying new phones and vehicles for the job

■ A majority of them agreed that deliveries can be increased if they worked harder, while a similar share also said that this was not in their control due to traffic and restaurant delays

■ Fuel costs as a share of their income increased from 28.7% in 2019 to 37.5% in 2022



Profile of a food delivery partner

An overview of the average food delivery worker, encompassing their background and skill sets, according to the survey

■ The typical food delivery worker is a 29-year-old male

■ Nearly one-fourth (23.8%) of these workers are in their first job, and of this group, 88% are students

■ Food delivery workers lack social security protection. Only 61.9% of workers receive rations, 12.2% possess an Ayushman Bharat card, 7.1% are registered on the e-Shram portal, and 4% are enrolled in the Atal Pension Yojana

■ These workers are considered informal labour, lacking employer-provided social welfare and job security, although some have accident insurance

■ Workers on long shifts average 10.8 hours, while those on short shifts work about 5.2 hours

■ A third of the workers have college degrees, and 93% have at least completed 10th standard

■ 43.7% of workers are sole wage earners, and 68.9% are non-migrants who worked in their hometowns

■ On average, workers stay in their food delivery roles for about 14.1 months, though a third indicate that they have no plans to leave

■ In terms of tenure, 28.1% have been working for less than a year and 25.7% for 1-2 years, making them pandemic-era hires. 24.7% started before the pandemic, having worked for over two years

■ These workers work 27.8% more hours than the average urban young male and earn 59.6% more. But, after accounting for fuel expenses, this income advantage narrows to 5%

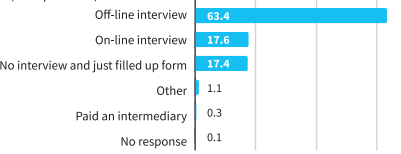
Incentives

Chart 1: A look at the reasons given by workers for joining food delivery platforms (% respondents)



Basis of entry

Chart 2: How did workers enter the food delivery platform? (% respondents)



Job requirements

To work for a food delivery service, a worker is required to own a two-wheeler and know how to use it, have a smartphone, and buy a kit that includes a T-shirt and bags

Vehicle

■ 87.8% of food delivery workers rely on two-wheelers, and 9.6% use bicycles for deliveries

■ 78% of these workers have their own vehicles for food delivery



■ Among those who didn't own a vehicle prior to joining, 55.2% purchased a new one, 18.2% bought a used one, and 14.6% borrowed from friends or relatives

■ Of those workers who acquired a new vehicle, 9.4% used the food delivery platform as a loan guarantor

Smart phone

■ Before joining the platform, 55.2% of workers already owned a smartphone, whereas 25.3% had to purchase one

■ Primarily students needed to purchase phones, with a third of them buying new ones.



Additionally, 21.5% of these students spent more than ₹10,000 on their phones

■ 17.4% of workers indicated that their phone cost exceeded ₹10,000. Given that the average monthly household expense in the survey is ₹13,089, a worker would need to allocate 75% of their monthly spending to afford a smartphone if purchased at once

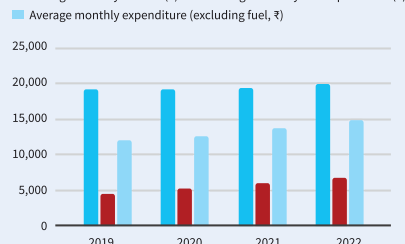
Delivery kit

■ The average cost for a delivery kit that a worker needed to purchase was ₹682.6.



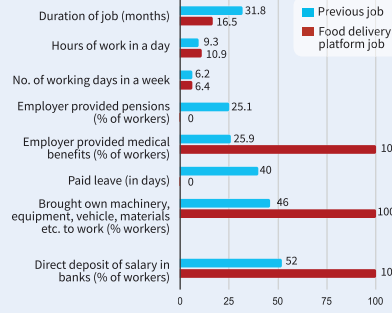
■ Often, workers borrowed kits from friends or relatives to sidestep purchasing T-shirts and bags from the platforms. Alternatively, some paid a refundable security deposit ranging from ₹700 to ₹1,500 to acquire the kit

Chart 7: Average monthly earnings, fuel costs, and monthly spending (excluding fuel) for long-shift platform workers



Old vs new job

Chart 3: The chart contrasts different facets of employment in food delivery platforms with the prior jobs of those who work long shifts in food delivery



Income and expenditure

Examining the change in a food delivery worker's income level after joining the platform

Chart 4: % of long-shift workers who said their real income (new income minus previous job's monthly income) increased/decreased/remained same

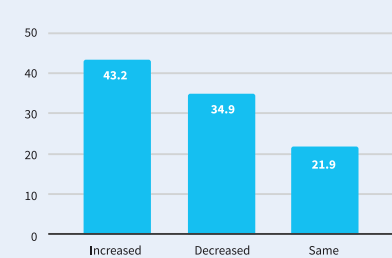


Chart 5: Year-wise nominal and real monthly income of long-shift food delivery workers (in ₹ thousand)

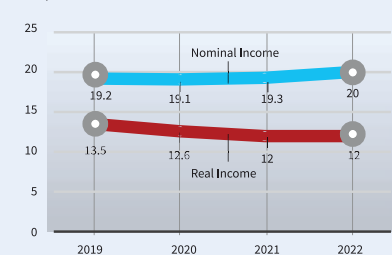
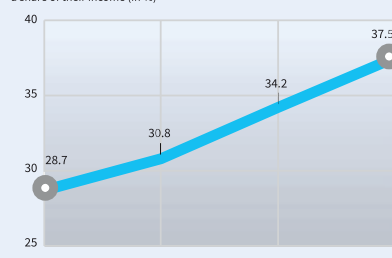


Chart 6: Year-wise share of fuel costs for long-shift food delivery workers as a share of their income (in %)



Perceptions about delivery

The charts show the share of respondents who said the following:

Chart 8: The number of deliveries can be increased if a worker tries harder

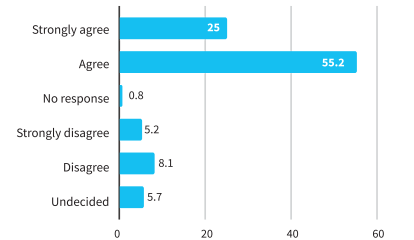


Chart 9: The number of deliveries a worker makes is not in their control

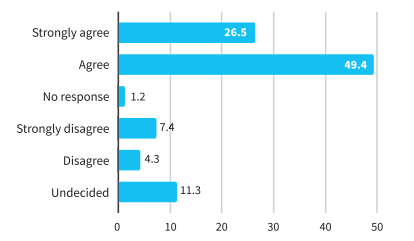


Chart 10: The worker can improve their rating if they are polite to their customers

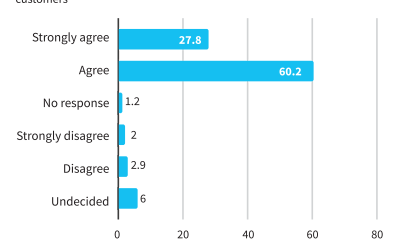
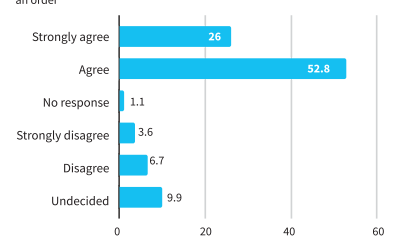


Chart 11: The worker has to spend a lot of time waiting at a restaurant for an order



Methodology

NCAER conducted a phone survey involving 924 food delivery workers from a specific platform. The survey spanned 28 cities, covering Tier 1, 2, and 3 cities across all regions of India—North, South, East, and West. It included both active and inactive or former workers, who had employment durations ranging from less than a year to over two years, working either full-time or part-time. This report, the first output of a three-part research programme undertaken by NCAER extensively explores the socio-economic implications of workers engaged in the food delivery platform industry, shedding light on their employment patterns, incomes, and work environments. Parts two and three of the research programme reports, to be released subsequently, will evaluate the socio-economic impact of food delivery platforms on restaurants, and their systemic impact on India's economy and labour markets.



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