

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH (NCAER)

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was founded in 1956 as an independent, board-run body to give support to both the government and the private sector in empirical economic research. NCAER today is a community of approximately 200 staff, about 120 of whom are involved directly in research and the remaining in support activities. A broad theme that permeates the Council's current research activities is the progress of India's economic reform programme and its impact on agriculture, industry and human development. An emerging focus is rigorous evaluation of major government public expenditure schemes in the social sector, at both state and Union levels, and the impact of globalisation on gender and the informal sector.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The chief executive of the Council is its Director-General and its members include state governments, public sector corporations, corporate houses and other associations and institutions. The Governing Body is elected by the members and includes prominent persons from the government, industry and academia. The bulk of the Council's revenues comes from studies done under contract for clients in the government, the development community and the private sector.

Profile of the Director-General

The current Director-General, Mr. Suman Bery, took charge on January 1, 2001. Prior to this appointment Mr. Bery was at the World Bank in Washington, DC, USA, where he held a number of positions in economic analysis with a particular focus on Latin America. Between 1992 and 1994 Mr. Bery held the position of Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), based in Mumbai. While at the RBI, he was actively involved in developing proposals for the reform of the government debt markets; linkages between general financial sector deregulation and the development of the bond market, as well as issues of market structure, drawing upon the experience of other developing countries.

Mr. Bery holds an undergraduate degree from Magdalen College, Oxford. His graduate work was at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, from which he holds the degree of Master of Public and International Affairs. His PhD dissertation research (also at Princeton) was on the monetary policy instruments of the Reserve Bank of India. Mr. Bery's publications include papers on Indian financial sector reform; reform of public sector banks; banking crises in Latin America; and the political economy of economic reform in developing countries.

The Governing Body

The composition of the Governing Body as of March 31, 2003 is as under:

President	Dr. Bimal Jalan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India
Vice-President	Mr. M.S. Verma, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi
Secretary	Brig. Narinder Sapra, Registrar & Secretary, NCAER, New Delhi
Members	
Shankar N. Acharya	Honorary Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi
Mukesh D. Ambani	Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Limited, Mumbai
Dr. Surjit Bhalla	Director, O(x)us Research & Investments, New Delhi
Suman Bery	Director-General, NCAER, New Delhi (ex officio)
Dr. Tarun Das	Director-General, CII, New Delhi
Yoginder C. Deveshwar	Chairman, ITC Limited, Kolkata
Ashok S. Ganguly	Chairman, ICI India Limited, Mumbai
K. V. Kamath	Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Bank Limited, Mumbai

Naina Lal Kidwai	Vice-Chairperson & Managing Director, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, Mumbai
Anand G. Mahindra	Managing Director, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, Mumbai
R.A. Mashelkar	Director-General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi
Dr. Rakesh Mohan	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai
Dr. S. Narayan	Secretary Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (ex officio)
Rohini Nayyar	Advisor, Planning Commission, New Delhi
Rajendra S. Pawar	Chairman, National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), New Delhi
Deepak S. Parekh	Chairman, Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC), New Delhi

RESEARCH AREAS

1. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Core Themes

- Reforms in the agricultural sector and Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) under the WTO
- Price policy and public distribution system (PDS)
- Land consolidation, fragmentation and optimal land-use plans
- Rural infrastructure and agro-processing
- Irrigation and watershed management
- Changing food baskets and their impact on production patterns

Recent Projects

- An Analysis of the Price Behaviour of Selected Commodities
- Infrastructure Development Schemes for Agricultural Exports: An Evaluation
- Economic and Policy Reforms in Agriculture
- Uruguay Round Agreement and Indian Agriculture: Strategic Issues for the Future
- A Policy Model for Open Market Operations of Wheat

2. MACROECONOMIC MONITORING AND FORECASTING

Core Themes

- Assessments of the current state of the economy
- Short-term forecasts through computable general equilibrium (CGE) Models
- Medium-term forecasts through econometric models
- Monitoring of cyclical patterns in key variables that affect industrial, financial and international trade activity
- Business Expectations Surveys

Recent Projects

- State of the Economy: Trends and Prospects
- Study of Government Spending on Social Sectors
- Macroeconomic Analysis of Gender: An Attempt in CGE Modelling
- Developing Tourism Satellite Accounts for India
- Assessment of Export Credit Delivery System

3. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Core Themes

- Evaluation of poverty and employment- focus on informal sector employment
- Sectional studies in population and demographic transition
- Morbidity and health economics
- Economics of education
- Gender studies

Recent Projects

- Evaluation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- Programme of Research in Human Development
- Programme of Research in Gender and the Informal Sector
- Socioeconomic Determinants of Literacy and Schooling in India
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4.INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Core Themes

- Policy issues relevant to industry, infrastructure and international economic cooperation
- Sectoral studies to evaluate the competitiveness of industry
- Impact of economic liberalisation on infrastructure development

Recent Projects

- Evaluation of Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme
- Affordability of Telecommunication Services
- Assessing the Impact of Transport and Energy Infrastructure on Poverty Reduction
- Study on Indian Railways

5. SURVEY AND GENERAL ECONOMICS

Core Themes

- Conduct of. sample surveys and statistical analysis of data for different types of research studies
- Market Information Survey of Households (MISH)
- Tracking consumer demographics and consumption patterns across product categories

Recent Projects

- Study of Investor Behaviour in India
- Evaluation Study of Energy Parks in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
- Baseline Survey of Credit and Saving for Household Enterprises

NCAER ACTIVITIES

- Develop policy reports for clients
- Track key sectors of the economy for subscribers
- Forecast the economic outlook
- Conduct, design and analyse surveys that illuminate public policy issues as well as assist private sector decisions
- Disseminate research findings

NCAER has built up a rich economic and commercial database. Its research findings are widely disseminated through its publications programme and web-site: www.ncaer.org

Networking

NCAER's web-site offers user-friendly interaction and exchange of ideas. It provides latest information on NCAER's activities, publications and products, and has facilities for online ordering and downloadable information for registered users.

NCAER PERIODICALS

Margin

Quarterly review of the Indian economy. The research articles and empirical information focus on the broad areas of applied economics.

Macro Track

Monthly update of economic forecasts, indicators, business expectations surveys, economic data and trends.

Mimap-India News

Quarterly newsletter that focuses on the micro impacts of macroeconomic and adjustment policies.

Artha Suchi

Quarterly computerised index of Indian economic literature comprising government reports, journal articles and newspaper write-ups.

NCAER RESOURCES

Centre for Infrastructure and Regulation

This Centre is devoted to the analysis of policy and related issues of the infrastructure sectors. Its current work focuses on reforms in the power and telecommunications sectors. A comprehensive infrastructure database is also being compiled. Problems associated with 'universal service' and benchmarking of performance in select sectors are other areas that figure in the work plan of this Centre.

Publications

The Publications Division serves NCAER's clientele with a comprehensive selection of new and recent publications that reflect the research interests of the organisation. The publications include books, reports, monographs, working papers, discussion papers and reprints.

NCAER publications reach

- national and international research institutions
- academia
- the business community
- government and non-government agencies
- the public and private sectors

Library

The NCAER Library is one of India's premier research libraries in applied economics that has been providing research support to the Council's economists, as well as to policy-makers, administrators, consultants, students and others from all over the country. The library receives more than 400 journals and has exchange arrangements with more than 70 national and international organisations.

Computer Centre

The Computer Centre offers state-of-the-art solutions for e-mailing, internet access, and a network backup system to manage the information technology requirements of a large, knowledge-based research organisation like NCAER.