# ACCELENSE

## A Newsletter to Accelerate SDGs

### Edition 7: Economic Lense
### Theme: Driving Growth Through Inclusion and Innovation

SDGCAC
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COORDINATION AND ACCELERATION CENTRE
Powering Viksit Haryana

**SDG Coordination and Acceleration Centre (under the aegis of Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management)**, Haryana welcomes you to their fortnightly newsletter series SDG ACCELENSE - designed to help share knowledge, spotlight ideas and focus on innovations shaping sustainable development. We hope this "lens" provides multiple perspectives on developmental issues and drives real acceleration on the ground helping achieve a **'VIKSIT HARYANA'.** Each edition will explore development through either of the three lenses — the **Economic Lense**, capturing stories of people, inclusion, and environment; the **Tech Lense**, highlighting digital and technological enablers of change; and the **Economic Lense**, focusing on growth, finance, and resilience. Together, they will endeavour to provide impetus for the state to be a "Non -stop Life Force" in its path to become globally competitive, inclusive and sustainable Haryana.



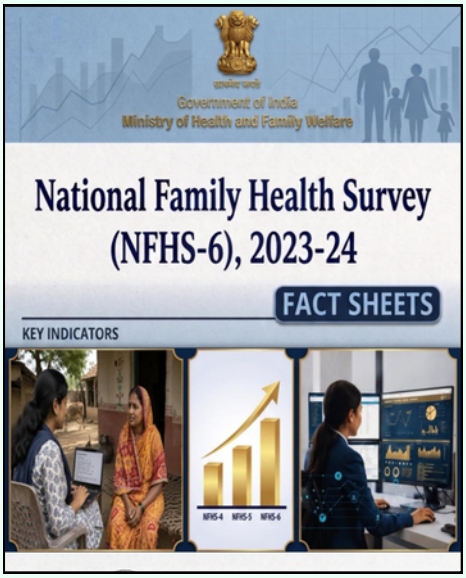
**Nayab Singh Saini**
**Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana**

**Research and innovation are the backbone of a developed economy, and Haryana will invest in knowledge to drive prosperity for every citizen." — CM Nayab Singh Saini, July 14, 2026, announcing the ₹20-crore Haryana State Research Fund.**

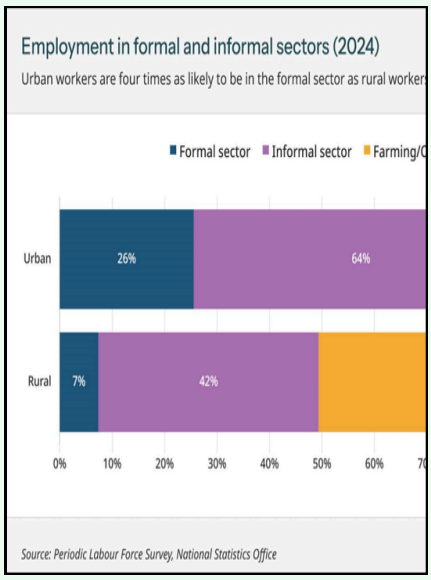
**source:**
- **https://theprint.in/india/haryana-cm-announces-rs-20-crore-fund-to-boost-research-innovation/2986305/?utm_source=copilot.com**

## India's Fragile Health Gains: Insights from NFHS-6 (2023–24)

The NFHS-6 (2023–24) signals both progress and vulnerability in India's public health landscape.Institutional deliveries reached 90%, child immunisation climbed to 82%, and fertility has stabilised at 2.0, below replacement level. These achievements mark important strides in maternal and child health. Yet nutrition indicators remain stubborn: 30% of children are stunted, 19% wasted, and 32% underweight. Only 15% of infants receive adequate diets, and exclusive breastfeeding has slipped to 55%. The editorial notes that schemes like PM-POSHAN face pressures from rising food costs and reduced school coverage, while regional disparities persist—Gujarat's rural malnutrition rates touch 40%. Missing data on anaemia and sanitation limits a full picture, but NFHS-6 still provides valuable direction. Strengthening food diversity, school meals, and public distribution systems will be key to ensuring that India's health gains translate into lasting resilience.




**source:**
- **https://www.epw.in/journal/editorials/less-robust-family-health-report.html**




# India's Informal Sector: Persistent Challenge

Data For India's latest study reveals the scale of India's informal sector, which continues to employ nearly nine out of ten workers. Despite economic growth and diversification away from agriculture, most workers remain in low-security, non-agricultural informal jobs. Formal employment has grown modestly, from 40 million in 2005 to 70 million in 2024, but informal employment surged from 430 million to 550 million over the same period. Rural areas are disproportionately affected, with 90% of workers outside formal structures. International comparisons show India's informality rates far exceed peers like Vietnam and Sri Lanka, underscoring structural weaknesses in labour protections. The report calls for policy innovation to expand pathways to formalisation, strengthen worker security, and align employment with India's development ambitions.

**source:**

- **https://www.dataforindia.com/informal-sector-sizing/**

# Manufacturing Employment: Uneven Gains, Hidden Strains

India's manufacturing employment has stagnated nationally, despite industrial expansion. Between 2017-18 and 2022-23, manufacturing's share in total employment barely moved, exposing a jobless growth pattern. State-level contrasts are stark: Gujarat and Tamil Nadu absorbed workers into manufacturing, while Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Odisha lagged, reflecting weak labour absorption. Much of the limited growth is concentrated in capital-intensive sectors, offering fewer jobs per unit of output. Meanwhile, labour-intensive industries like textiles and food processing have struggled, squeezed by global competition and domestic policy gaps. Informality dominates—over 80% of manufacturing workers lack contracts or social security, undermining the sector's role in delivering "decent work." The headline numbers mask a structural crisis: industrial growth without employment intensity, expansion without inclusion, and factories without futures. True progress demands state-specific labour and industrial reforms, not statistical comfort.



**source:**

- **https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/macroeconomics/manufacturing-employment-in-recent-years-comparison-among-states**



# Mainstreaming Gender: Beyond Growth and Education?

Despite decades of economic growth, rising education, and legal reforms, gender inequality in labour markets remains entrenched. In a VoxDevTalk, economists Barbara Petrongolo and Ashwini Deshpande highlight that women continue to earn less, work under constrained conditions, and carry disproportionate unpaid care burdens across both rich and poor countries. Even in high-income nations, gaps persist: total earnings differences range from 25% in Finland to 75% in Japan. In India, women's higher education has not translated into greater labour force participation. The study stresses that growth and education are necessary but insufficient—policies must tackle social norms, care responsibilities, and structural barriers. Efficiency arguments show that excluding women wastes talent and reduces GDP, but norms and unpaid care remain critical obstacles. True equality requires mainstreaming gender across all policy areas, not treating it as a niche concern.

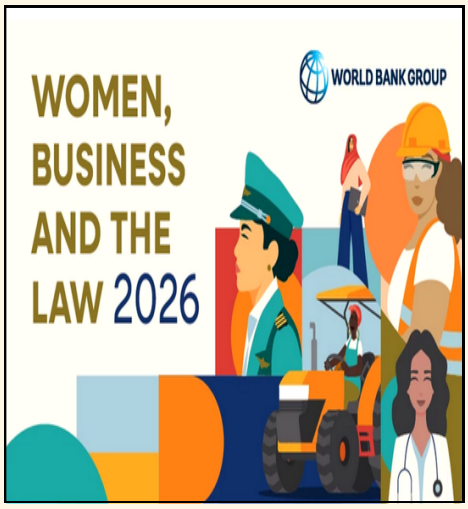
**source:**

- **https://voxdev.org/topic/labour-markets/gender-inequality-labour-markets-why-growth-and-education-are-not-enough**

# World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2026

The Women, Business and the Law 2026 report benchmarks gender equality across 190 economies, revealing that women enjoy less than two-thirds of men's legal rights. Only 4% of women worldwide live in economies approaching full equality. Even where laws exist, enforcement and supportive systems lag: average scores drop from 67 (laws) to 53 (enforcement) and just 47 (supportive institutions). Barriers in safety, childcare, and entrepreneurship remain most severe, with only 1% of low-income countries offering adequate childcare frameworks. Between 2023–25, 68 economies enacted 113 reforms, yet progress is uneven. Closing these gaps could raise global GDP by 15–20%.

India scores 80/100 on legal frameworks, reflecting strong laws on paper. But enforcement falls below 45/100, and supportive systems average 50/100. Weak childcare infrastructure, limited equal pay enforcement, and barriers to women entrepreneurs persist.




**source:**

- **https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/2d98382b-4cc6-43ba-b140-06ea4ca9a51e/content**

# Unincorporated Sector: Stasis Amid Scale

| Important Percentages | October 2025 - December 2025 (quarterly) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural | Urban | All |
| percentage of proprietary and partnership establishments | 93.11 | 97.80 | 95.27 |
| percentage of hired worker establishments | 6.72 | 19.78 | 12.74 |
| percentage of market establishments | 99.45 | 99.55 | 99.50 |

| Key Operational Characteristics for October 2025 - December 2025 | |
|---|---|
| Percentage of female workers | 29% |
| Percentage of Establishments using internet | 48% |
| Percentage of Establishments registered under an act/authority | 41% |

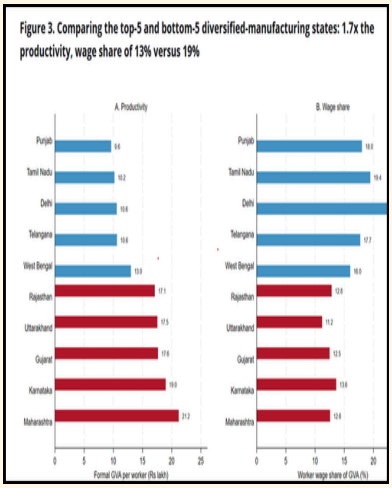
The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2025 reveals that India's unincorporated enterprises—micro units outside formal registration—continue to dominate employment but contribute little to productivity growth. Despite their scale, the sector shows stasis in output and wages, with most enterprises operating at subsistence levels. The survey highlights that over 80% of workers in this sector lack contracts, social security, or access to credit, reinforcing informality. Regional disparities persist, with southern states showing relatively higher enterprise survival rates, while northern states lag. The report underscores that without structural reforms—credit access, skill development, and simplified compliance—India's unincorporated sector risks remaining a low-productivity trap. For policymakers, the challenge is to integrate these enterprises into formal value chains, ensuring inclusivity while boosting efficiency.

**source:**

- **https://www.mospi.gov.in/uploads/publications_reports/publications_reports1774347275480_658da785-11e1-4df3-9f02-27e08a8675f6_Factsheet_ASUSE_2025-f.pdf**

# Productivity Up, Wages Flat: Manufacturing's Broken Link

India's formal manufacturing productivity has more than doubled in 15 years—gross value added (GVA) per worker rose from ₹7 lakh in 2008–09 to nearly ₹16 lakh in 2023–24. Yet, average wages remain stuck at ₹2.16 lakh per worker, translating to a wage share of just 13.7%. This marks a steep decline from 22.2% in 2000–01 and 14.3% in 2011–12, showing that productivity gains are increasingly captured by capital, not labour. Across states, the pattern is stark: higher productivity correlates with lower wage shares. Diversified manufacturing states like Maharashtra and Gujarat produce 1.7 times more per worker but deliver one-third less wage share compared to states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Rising contract labour, weak labour protections, and limited bargaining power exacerbate the squeeze. The headline numbers mask a structural crisis: factories produce more, but workers earn less. Without reforms—bringing contract workers under protections, linking industrial incentives to wage growth, and boosting informal-sector productivity—India risks a manufacturing model that grows without inclusion.




**source:**

- **https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/macroeconomics/productivity-up-wages-flat-how-indias-manufacturing-growth-has-stopped-working-for-its-workers**

# Municipal Bonds in India: A 30-Year Story Still Unfinished

India's municipal bond journey, launched with Ahmedabad's issue in 1998, remains modest even after three decades. Only ₹6,087 crore has been raised by 25 cities, with two-thirds of this in the last decade under government incentives like AMRUT. Yet, the market is shallow—most bonds are subscribed by public institutions rather than retail investors, and tenors remain short, typically five years, undermining their role as long-term infrastructure finance. Grants from schemes such as JNNURM and AMRUT have crowded out borrowing, while weak municipal finances and dependence on state approvals limit creditworthiness. The absence of tax exemptions further discourages retail participation. The Union Budget 2026–27 introduced a ₹100 crore incentive for bond issues above ₹1,000 crore, signalling intent to scale up. Still, without stronger municipal revenue bases, GST sharing, and investor-friendly reforms, India's municipal bond market risks remaining unfinished.



**source:**

- **https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/governance/municipal-bonds-in-india-a-30-year-story-still-unfinished**




# Why Digital Policy Fails Women

India's digital inclusion policies continue to fall short for women because connectivity alone does not translate into empowerment. Despite female labour force participation rising to 41.7% in 2023–24, most women remain excluded from digitally enabled work. The digital gender gap is stark—only 33% of women use the internet compared to 57% of men, with rural and low-income households worst affected. Access barriers persist as household smartphone ownership often excludes women, while safety concerns and fear of online harassment deter sustained use. Evidence shows that skills training tied to women's groups and immediate economic opportunities yields 2.4 times higher retention, and verified employment linkages, such as Jharkhand's Digital Didi initiative, doubled retention rates. Fragmented schemes across ministries dilute impact; only an integrated pathway—combining access, safety, skills, and employment—can unlock women's digital economic potential and add US$770 billion to India's GDP by 2030.

| Indicator | May 2026 | Previous/Change | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| CPI Inflation | 3.93 | 3.48 | Inflation at the wholesale level rose to 9.7% in May 2026, mainly due to the surge in prices of crude oil, natural gas, and mineral oils. |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.5 | 5.2 | Marginally above than last month. While rural UR increased 0.5 pp, urban UR declined 0.2 pp this month. |
| Repo rate | 5.25 | 5.25 | Unchanged |
| Trade Deficit | $10.51 billion | $ 7.81 billion | $ 2.7 billion increase in Trade Deficit. |

**source:**

- **https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/social-identity/three-locks-one-key-why-indias-digital-policy-keeps-failing-women**



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