



The Indian economy: a macroeconomic perspective

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transnational journeys, the labors and relations entailed in domestic work, Islamic teaching centers, modes of religious conversion and the relational difficulties engendered by religious conversion. *Everyday conversions* is a poignant and patient engagement with the gendered spaces and relations that are easy to overlook but are vital to state formation, social reproduction and religious life in multiple countries. This book will be of interest to scholars of migration, labor, women's studies, religion, South Asia studies and anthropology.

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The Indian economy: a macroeconomic perspective, by Nilanjan Banik, London, Sage, 2015, 234 pp., INR 595 (Paperback), ISBN 978-93-515-0057-5

In this book Nilanjan Banik thematically discusses demand and supply side factors, fiscal and monetary policies, inflation and post liberalisation reforms and their implications for the Indian economy, spread across eight chapters in the book.

The book commences with an introduction to macroeconomics. It provides a brief overview of different models concerning the supply side component of GDP, and factors affecting GDP at large. Chapter two interrelates the concept of growth and development. It focuses on income inequality and its distribution over the decades. Banik contends that imperfection in labour and capital markets affect the distribution of income. He iterates that the classical understanding of markets is inherently flawed. As India grows (especially in terms of urbanisation), he argues, a focus should be given to infrastructural development, to sanitation and other developmental parameters such as health and education. The government can address the big question of poverty and inequality by looking into micro issues such as agricultural commodities and giving fiscal incentives. There is a need for increasing government interventions and effective governance to harness the demographic dividend and complement India's economic growth.

Demand management policies are what is dealt in the third chapter of the book. It explicates terminologies pertaining to the budget and locates it in the context of Indian budgeting. The author argues that the interest payment component of revenue expenditure has gone up due to high internal debt in recent years (66), and broadly covers fiscal and monetary policies. The subsequent chapter focuses on inflation, its various types, different calculation methods and demand and supply side shocks with respect to inflation. The later part of the section deals with unemployment. Banik asserts that India has one of the largest informal markets at 93 percent and is marred by jobless growth.

The book explicates and evaluates the process of reforms in India from pre-1991 to the present. The 1991 reform era did not meet expectations especially concerning health and education, 'two important pillars of development' (137). Banik concludes with policy prescriptions on infrastructure, land acquisition, corruption and administrative and labour market reforms. The section on trade commences with a fundamental inquiry of why countries do trade, followed by various models to comprehend trade. He argues that in India productivity growth has increased the competitiveness regarding exports (especially in services), but infrastructural and procedural bottlenecks are significant restraints.

Banik focuses on gauging the value of currency exchange rates, and addresses issues and complexities related to the value of exchange rates. He further elaborates on the currency crisis and explores the reasons behind it. The book concludes with a brief historicization of the World Trade Organisation, and further goes on to locate India's role in negotiations and its achievements in due process in the organisation. The overarching goal is to strike a balance between government welfare spending on health and education, and concomitantly easing the investment climate by deregulation and less control to enable Indian business communities to flourish.

This book primarily targets students, claiming to explain key concepts, and it has largely succeeded in doing so. The only limitation relates to the time period covered, as it does not comment on the Indian economy after 2014. Since the election of the new central government led by the National Democratic Alliance in that year, there has been a rapid series of policy changes and reforms. A second edition of this book would provide a more astute analysis, as it would be able to examine these changes. The book is easily comprehensible by non-specialist students, as it is equipped with numerous case studies and examples to explain different concepts, theories and phenomena at large. Banik successfully addresses the objective to comprehend Indian macroeconomy coherently and concisely.

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Do you remember Kunan Poshpora, by Essar Batool, Ifrah Butt, Samreena Mushtaq, Munaza Rashid, and Natasha Rather, New Delhi, Zubaan, 2016, xxviii + 228 pp., ISBN 978-93-84757-66-3

The common Kashmiri's deep involvement in the insurgency of the 1990s was unprecedented. Until then, the masses in Kashmir were not seen as an active agent in the conundrum that the Kashmir conflict has become. The Indian response to the insurgency turned the valley into one of the most heavily militarized zones, which meant daily existence under the watch of the army, an army which overrode the common laws and was further provided impunity with special enactment such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and the Disturbed Areas Act. *Do you remember Kunan Poshpora?* seeks to narrate the shocking mass rapes in the year 1991 by the Indian army in two villages – Kunan and Poshpora – and the trials and tribulations leading to the reopening of the case 24 years after the crime. At its core it challenges the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of such crimes and believes in 'developing a culture of resistance where impunity will be questioned by the people' (22). Written by five young activist authors from Kashmir it poses the question 'how does one continue to invest in the belief that justice will be done?' (xxv).

The seven chapters of the book trace the history of the investigations into mass rapes by Indian soldiers in Kunan and Poshpora, the brave and continued attempt of the victims to obtain justice, the role played by traumatic memory, and the broader place of women in Kashmir and in the resistance against 'occupation' by India. The book attempts to do