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The study, based in Brazil, finds that while political leaders display interest and willingness to incorporate research findings to design more effective policies.

## Does research influence policy design?

1 min read . Updated: 19 Aug 2019, 01:59 PM IST

Sneha Alexander

The reason why political leaders do not adopt research findings in their policies could be because such information does not reach them, suggests new research

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Policy-related research and impact evaluations have increased over time, but their findings may not be reaching their intended audience - the policymakers - suggests new National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) research authored by Jonas Hjort and others.

The study, based in Brazil, finds that while political leaders display interest and willingness to incorporate research findings to design more effective policies, limited exposure to research information may be acting as a constraint on policy choice.

The study involved two experiments which were conducted in partnership with Brazil's National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) and targeted mayors of over 2,150 municipalities. The focus on mayors was meant to assess the impact of policymakers possessing direct policy knowledge. In Brazil, municipalities enjoy high executive autonomy and mayors wield significant authority over policies at the municipality level.

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The first experiment involved informing the mayors about available research on the effectiveness of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme at the sidelines of a conference. They found that not only did mayors show interest in the research findings but they were also willing to pay to find out more about the results from such studies.

In a second experiment, mayors were provided with research evidence on the benefits of reminder letters to taxpayers for improving tax compliance. The researchers conducted follow up phone surveys after one-two years to check the implementation status of a policy. They found that direct knowledge about the benefits of the policy significantly increased the probability of its implementation.

It is encouraging that political leaders show interest in integrating both policies, but the gaps in information access must be bridged, for research to meaningfully inform policy choice, the authors suggest.

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GST overhaul next on agenda after budget

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Centre-state talks will aim to fix structural flaws that have affected revenue  
Several rounds of tax cuts and exemptions have made GST revenue-deficient rather than revenue-neutral

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## Denied relief by Sebi, Karvy's lenders look at DRT, IBBI options

3 min read 29 Dec 2019

Lenders are also considering a move to sell minority stakes in the sister concerns of Karvy Stock Broking

ICICI Bank on 20 Dec became the first lender to approach the Hyderabad DRT for recovery of dues

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## HT No. 1 in Delhi-NCR, Mint is India's No. 2 business daily

2 min read 12:12 AM IST

Hindustan Times continued to strengthen its presence in Punjab and has emerged as the most-read newspaper in the region, the latest Indian Readership Survey shows

The result reflects the continuing trust that readers have placed in the print medium and in publications of HT Media Ltd

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## Banks to turn around in 2020, but may find more dirt than gold

3 min read 12:06 AM IST

'The health of the banking sector hinges around a turnaround in macroeconomic conditions,' RBI said in its financial stability report

RBI's FSR warns that banks' bad loan ratios will worsen next year

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## Bharti Airtel hikes minimum recharge for prepaid users

3 min read 29 Dec 2019

Telco raises minimum monthly recharge amount for users to ₹45 from ₹35 earlier

Hike in minimum monthly recharge is more significant as it hits users at the bottom of the pyramid

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## Scrappage policy in last lap, to focus on commercial vehicles

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The proposed policy is seen as a bid by the govt to prop up demand for automobiles

The proposed policy will seek to take polluting commercial vehicles off the roads

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Our borrowing should not be cut, considering the situation we have been through following the floods, and rehabilitation, says Kerala finance minister

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To venerate virtues that are external to us and suppress our flaws is to deny who we really are

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# Hemant Soren sworn in as 11th Jharkhand CM amid Opposition show of strength

3 min read 12:25 AM IST

The ceremony also saw Congress' Alam, Oraon and RJD's Bhogta take oath as ministers in the state cabinet

This is the second time that Soren has taken oath as the chief minister of the tribal state

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## Market outlook: Macro-data, crude oil prices to steer indices' movements

2 min read 29 Dec 2019

Macroeconomic data points, coupled with PMI numbers, monthly automobile sales' numbers, are expected to influence the trajectory of Indian markets during the upcoming week

Crude oil prices along with the expectations of a healthy Q3 earning would also influence the market's movement

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## In last 'Mann Ki Baat' of this year, PM Modi reaches out to the youth

2 min read 12:30 AM IST

The next decade will see 'active contribution' from those who were born in the 21st century, Modi said in his address

Modi's comments on the young generation come at a time when the ongoing pan-India protests against the passage of the CAA are being largely led by students and youth

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## All villages electrified, but last-mile supply a challenge

4 min read 29 Dec 2019

After making huge strides in power sector, India now needs to streamline its distribution. With electricity reaching all of India's 597,464 census villages, it helped prepare the nation for achieving universal electrification.

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## Opinion | In memory of Paul Volcker, a titan among central bankers

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Perhaps he will be remembered best as a visionary—for his ability to see beyond the conventional wisdom of his time.

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## CAPITAL CALCULUS

**2020: The year when economy is on the mind**

3 min read 12:06 AM IST

The single biggest priority for the central government in the new year is to kick-start growth

[Read Full Story](#)**Andhra govt sets up panel to study report suggesting three capitals**

2 min read 12:33 AM IST

The committee will examine the G.N. Rao committee report and chalk out a strategy on the way forward

This comes after the state cabinet, led by chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, in a meeting on 27 December deferred taking a decision to relocate the capital

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