

Readme for data on Special Economic Zones in India used in the article “Place-based Policies, Structural Change and Female Labor: Evidence from India’s Special Economic Zones”

The repository contains SEZ-level data (‘Special Economic Zones India.xlsx’) as well as municipality data with distances to the closest SEZ that became operational between 2005 and 2013 (‘SEZ_data_shrids.dta’).

The municipalities have unique IDs from the Socioeconomic High-resolution Rural-Urban Geographic Platform for India (SHRUG, more information here: <https://www.devdatalab.org/shrug>). Before assigning unique municipality IDs (shrids) to the data, we have spatially merged the SEZ-level data with the India Village-Level Geospatial Socio-Economic Data Set (more information here: <https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/data/catalog/sedac-ciesin-sedac-india-vilsocioecon-1.00>).

The SEZ-level data has been compiled from official lists from the SEZ administration website (<https://sezindia.gov.in/>) and the geo locations are based on a subsample of officially georeferenced SEZs that is accessible at the development commissioner’s website of the Visakhapatnam SEZ (<https://vsez.gov.in/> -> Section GIS Location of SEZs). The locations have been manually augmented and updated to the most recent date. While the date of notification is officially communicated, the date of operation is obtained from publicly available sources. Note that the date of operation corresponds to the earliest year, where we found any public information that the SEZ is operation. Therefore, the date of operation might come with some noise or is incomplete.

The list of SEZs contains all SEZs that have been approved under the SEZ Act between 2005 and 2020.

The two data sets in the repository can be linked with the unique SEZ Id (‘SI_no’).

For more information on the data please refer to the related publication or reach out to Johannes Gallé (johannes.galle@posteo.de).