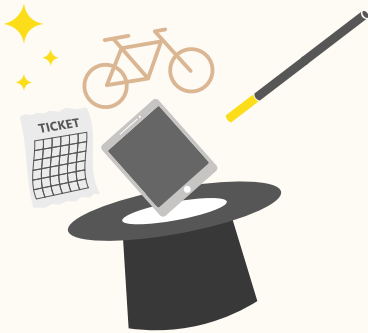


KEY FINDINGS

1

Ideological Imprints: Deciphering People's Take on Redistribution

In this paper, we investigate how people from different professional and economic backgrounds view socialist principles in the Constitution of India. We conducted interviews with people to understand their opinions on topics like wealth redistribution, poverty alleviation, and reduction of income inequalities.

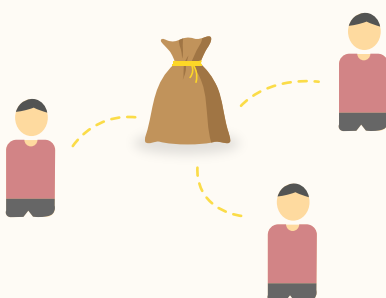
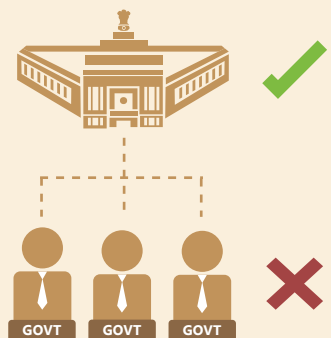


Growing sentiment against free provision of goods and services

Most respondents, across income levels, viewed **government-provided free goods and services negatively**. They cited issues like dependency, leaks, political influence, and loss of human dignity.

Trust in State as an institution, but mistrust in State functionaries

Interviewees had starkly distinct views on the **State as an institution** and the **State in practice**. While they **praised the State in abstract**, they also recalled several instances of **abuse of power** and **poor treatment by public officials**.

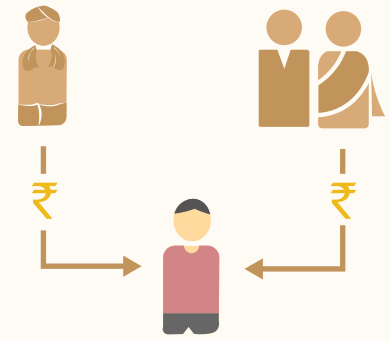


Limited support for redistribution

Most respondents **opposed taxing the wealthy** more to provide for low-income groups. Some were against it **as a matter of principle**, others argued that it was **unachievable**. Instead, respondents emphasised on the need for voluntary assistance from the affluent.

High reliance on non-State welfare

Respondents, particularly from low-income groups, **preferred aid from personal networks** and private sources in emergencies due to their timeliness and reliability. State intervention was trusted mainly in maintaining law and order.



The misalignment between State policies and public perception must encourage a deeper reflection on the role of the welfare State in society.

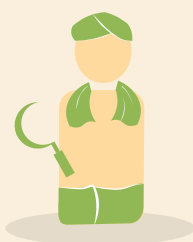
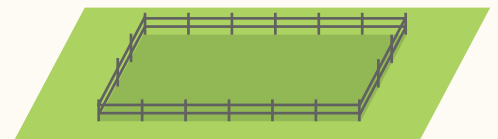
2

Rights and Ranks: Public Pulse on Constitutional Priorities

In this paper, we examine whether people hold the same values as the Constitution, with a focus on how Indian citizens perceive the Right to Freedom (Article 19(1)) and the Right to Property (Article 300-A). The Constitution categorises rights into fundamental, constitutional, and legal; implying a hierarchy of rights within it. This study investigates whether people prioritise rights in a manner consistent with the Constitution.

Right to Property is highly valued among people

Majority of respondents **valued the Right to Property above other Article 19(1) rights**, emphasising its role in securing livelihoods, safety, and settlement options.



Rights that protect livelihood were valued above others

Rights related to livelihood were given priority. These include the right to reside, movement, and property. Livelihood seemed to be an important theme that was reflected in various ways depending on personal experiences.



Perceptions on rights and restrictions

Respondents associated **rights** with "**autonomy**", "**choice**", "**liberty**", "**equity**", "**security**", "**safety**", and "**freedom**". When asked about **restrictions**, they used words like "**vague**", "**arbitrary**", "**unclear**", and "**excuses**" to convey their perception.

Rights for self versus rights for others

Respondents had different attitudes towards restrictions on their rights versus restrictions on others' rights. People were **more likely to accept having restrictions on others' rights** than they were for themselves.



Selective support for freedom of speech

Respondents were **pro free speech for themselves but not for others**. While freedom of speech and expression was highly valued by individuals for themselves, it was also most restricted when it came to others.

3

Schooled by State: People's Dive into Education Financing in India

In the case of *Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan v. Union of India* (2012), the term "free", as defined in the Right to Education Act, signifies the removal of financial barriers to education. This raises the question of whether the State can meet its Article 21A obligation through financial support, such as school vouchers, instead of directly operating schools. Our paper explores this through legal and scholarly perspectives.

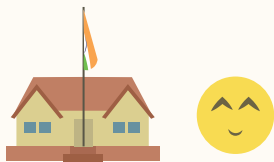
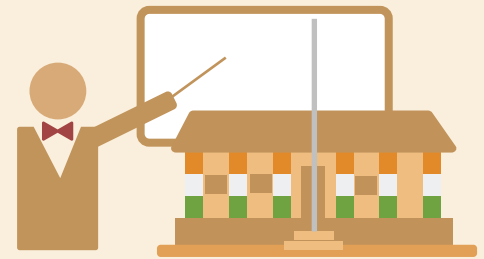


Parental perspective on education providers — institutional agnosticism

Parents practised institutional agnosticism whereby **they did not mind who provided education, as long as the quality of provision was up to par**.

Preference for private management of government schools

Although some still trusted State management, the majority of parents **wanted non-State actors to manage government schools**, showing that they believe private actors can effectively manage general provision.



Financial considerations drive private school enrolment

A significant number of parents **prioritise private schools** for their children, citing concerns about educational quality, **despite the availability of free government schools**.

Many parents indicated that a grant of INR 2500 for their child's education would lead them to opt for private schools.



Contrast in environment — public schools versus private schools

Most parents sending kids to public schools reported a poor environment, student violence, and property damage.

Students attending private schools displayed better behaviour.

Supplementing education through private tuitions

Despite sending kids to school, parents paid for private tuition to ensure learning. Many believed tuitions were more effective, revealing how private services filled gaps in the State system.



Between Land and Legislation: Voices from UP and Haryana on the Ninth Schedule

The Ninth Schedule of the Constitution shields laws from judicial review. Most pertain to land reforms, but, these reforms often harm farmers. Our research focuses on UP and Haryana.



Farmers want more freedom to effectively exercise ownership

Farmers across villages demand autonomy over their agricultural land. **Fines for clearing cattle waste and house demolitions** for exceeding construction limits frustrate them. These restrictions, seen as pro-industry, push farmers towards costly alternatives, harming their interests.

Views on ceiling limits are polarised

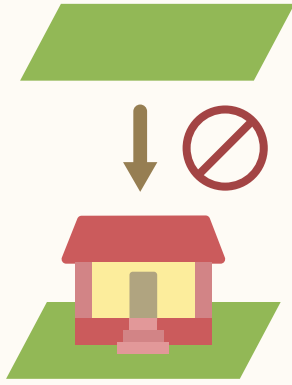
Marginal to medium landholding farmers favour the restrictions out of fear of concentration of land in the hands of a few. Conversely, small to large landholding farmers say that an enterprising farmer who has amassed large land holdings over generations, should not be penalised.



Informal leases are common, but create problems

The **bidding for the lease is competitive and transparent**; farmers regard it as a just arrangement since the prospective tenant farmer who values the land most, secures the rights to cultivate it.

However, under these circumstances, **tenants rarely** have access to credit and insurance markets.



Existing laws regarding conversion hurt farmers and the agricultural sector

Conversion, though not restricted by Ninth Schedule laws, is tied to land sale and freedom. **Fertile land is undervalued due to conversion restrictions**, leading landowners to reclassify it as barren for non-agricultural sale.

5

Capital Conversations: Delhiites on Urban Governance and its Reach

Delhi, the capital of India, is a growing economic hub. Every year thousands of people move to Delhi in search of economic opportunities. This makes it imperative for the city to ensure that its residents have access to well-planned infrastructure, clean water, electricity, and other services.



This paper explores residents' experience with the delivery of essential public services in Delhi. The 74th Constitutional Amendment transferred the task of managing these basic services to Urban Local Bodies. However, our interviews reveal a growing preference for non-institutional solutions, emphasising the need for reforms, transparency, and accountability in the public service delivery system.

Residents' experience vary across Wards

Residents in Wards like Hauz Khas and West Extension Area (Rajinder Nagar) engaged **private** garbage collectors and contractors to repair the road which contributed to an overall better experience. Krishna Nagar residents, solely dependent on MCD trucks for garbage collection, expressed dissatisfaction because of irregular service in their area.

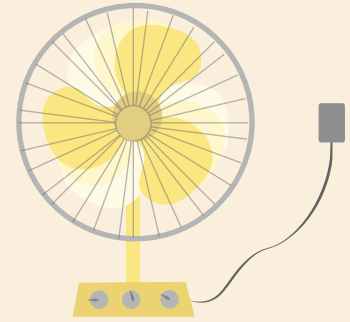


Some common complaints

Respondents **expressed dissatisfaction** with irregular road maintenance, inconsistent garbage collection, disruptions in water supply, and poor water quality. These issues were prevalent across all selected Wards.

Satisfactory experience with electricity in all areas except Balmiki Colony

Electricity supply and service quality were **generally satisfactory**, with residents reporting rare power cuts and quick complaint resolution. However, in Balmiki Colony (Rajinder Nagar), residents **complained** about inflated bills.



Grievances and institutional trust

People in all four Wards predominantly raised complaints with Resident Welfare Associations or contacted elected representatives for timely resolution of their grievances. Many respondents **did not trust the existing institutions** and **chose not to complain directly** to the concerned government departments.

Beyond Legalese:

Aam Aadmi in Conversation with the Constitution

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