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WEEKEND PLANNER

Thanksgiving feasts, a crafts bazaar and more for the weekend

Our picks for this weekend, from all-pumpkin feast menus to new shows about agency and lived histories



Detail from 'Hostile Witness: Arcadia/ Nagpada/ Mumbai/ Bombay'. (Courtesy Shrine Empire/The Artist)



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at her show *Hostile Witness*. Presented by Shrine Empire and curated by Salima Hashmi, the show is informed by a list of fragile architectural structures that are not officially listed as monuments but are imbued with lived histories. *At Bikaner House, Delhi, till 5 December*

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American-style roast turkey at Bastian.

A THANKSGIVING FEAST: Bastian has a special menu to commemorate this season of gratitude and togetherness. Inspired by a traditional American Thanksgiving, the selection features a traditional roast turkey with gravy and accompaniments such as pork crackling, mashed potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts and cranberry jam. You can end the meal on a sweet note with desserts such as mini apple and pumpkin pies. *At Bastian, Bandra and Worli, Mumbai, till 28 November, noon-4pm and 7pm-midnight*



Caramelised pecan pie by Ether.

DECADENT TREATS: Ether, the chocolate atelier, has collaborated with Mag Street Cafe and Nandan Coffee to create a limited-edition Thanksgiving menu. This unique all-pumpkin menu includes treats like a cruffin filled with pumpkin ganache and feuille, a pecan croissant, and a warming pumpkin spice latte. The menu is a play of spices, caramel and coffee with the lush flavours of pumpkin, creating a decadent meal. *At Mag Street Cafe, Mumbai, till 1 December, 8-12am.*
Order online on Thrivenow.in

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Varunika Saraf's first solo show is on at Chemould Prescott Road.

A LANGUAGE OF SCARS: Chemould Prescott Road is hosting Varunika Saraf's first solo show at the gallery as well as the online viewing room (OVR). Titled *Caput Mortuum*, this body of work speaks about a present besieged by acts of violence. *At Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, and on the OVR, till 31 December*

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HANDCRAFTED TO PERFECTION: From appliqué and Kutchi weaves to beadwork and *pichwai*, the 11th edition of The Handmade Collective brings a range of products crafted by over 100 artisans from 25 states. The products blend the traditional with the contemporary. *At the Bangalore International Centre, till 28 November, 10.30am-8.30pm*

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FIRST PUBLISHED 26.11.2021 | 09:30 AM IST

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NEXT STORY

Five thrift stores for preloved baby clothes, toys and more

If sustainability is on your mind when you shop for yourself, here are five platforms to help you extend this to you shop for your kids too



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A few entrepreneurs are populating the nascent and fledgeling market of pre-loved baby goods in India (Photo by Mediamodifier on Unsplash)

By Team Lounge

LAST UPDATED 15.12.2021 | 10:30 AM IST

Shopping for children is fun — you get to look at cute prints and socks and t-shirts made adorable by their very virtue of being tiny. But it’s all expensive, not just in terms of price-points but also in terms of the number of wears they get. After all, at the pace at which children outgrow things — physically and sometimes even mentally — is faster than you can say ‘sustainability’.

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It wasn’t uncommon for Indian kids from even as recently as the 90s, to have



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populating this nascent and fledgeling market of pre-loved baby goods with their community-driven platforms, all claiming to offer proper cleanliness and sanitary checks. Here are some.

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Twice Treasured

Launched in July 2020, this Instagram-native shop is run by three working mothers, Divya Abhishek, Tripti Chordia, and Vaibhavi Prakash. The idea is to connect parents, who quite like themselves, were looking to find more use for clothes and toys that their children outgrew fairly quickly. The trio assures "quality control through safety checks and sanitisation" before re-selling. If you reach out to sell a lightly used item, an automated email with a detailed questionnaire on the status and condition of the product, and requirements for a photograph, and a notification for a video call to follow up on this, lands in your inbox. Only once you send that back duly filled, can you proceed with the selling process. They list everything from educational toys, baby swing sets, prams, high-chairs, cribs and more.

Delivery across India. @shoptwicetreasured on Instagram.

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2020. Their motto: love, transfer, repeat. The duo wanted to create an online community to start a conversation on sustainable practices for parenting. So far, with over 50 brands like Chicco and Tommy Hilfiger listed on their platform, Tiny Things has also secured a first round of seed funding, and as per reports, hopes to expand their presence across India by selling franchises to mothers or “mompreneurs” who can work from home. Currently, their platform sells clothes, toys, books, shoes, and accessories. They offer free pickups of goods you want to sell, but follow a due process of ensuring the product's quality before this.

Delivery across India. [Tinythings.in](https://www.tinythings.in)

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Sold Resold

Started by friends Shradha Virani and Heena Kalantri in October 2019, Sold Resold too started as a community-driven platform to get parents to easily buy and sell “preloved and precared” baby products. Mostly active on Instagram, the platform uses one of their ‘Highlights’ section to detail a 4-step method for anyone wanting to sell lightly used baby products like toys, clothes, cots, shoes, sterilisers, and strollers. Products are qualified on the basis of a photo of the product shared with the team, and further communication on what one can earn for their product, is communicated directly.

Delivery across India. [@soldresold](https://www.instagram.com/soldresold) on Instagram

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Uptot

Founded by Rhea Gandhi, a member of the family that owns the popular Vadilal ice creams, Uptot is one of the more recent entrants into the game. The need to “create a community that would teach every child the concept of sharing and upcycling, right from a young age,” is what drove Gandhi to launch her own platform, which is open to clothing, strollers, books, toys, and even items that do not “...fit into one of our current categories”. Uptot charges a commission of 20% percent of the sale price, including 10% for shipping.

Delivery across India. [Uptot.in](https://uptot.in)

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Prehugged

Informed by a restless toddler, bored of all his current toys and clothes during the initial lockdown months of the pandemic, a young mother started looking at social media groups to buy preloved, affordable and sustainable new toys, books, and more to keep him entertained. But it was all too unorganised. Overnight, she decided to create a platform that accepted gently used toys and books from parents, sanitised them, and curated to sell them on an online platform.

Prehugged differs from the others on this list in that you cannot earn from what you give away. They offer a free pick-up service across Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai; and reimburse your courier costs of up to ₹200, if you wish to send your donations from anywhere else. When you buy from them, they say, a part of your money goes to a charity for orphans.

Delivery across India. [Prehugged.com](https://prehugged.com)

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This debut book explores the limits of political correctness

India-born, former Lambda Literary Fellow Nawaaz Ahmed's searing debut navigates what remains said and u
in familial bonds and everyday politics



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Nawaaz Ahmed, author of Radiant Fugitives

By Saurabh Sharma

LAST UPDATED 15.12.2021 | 11:00 AM IST

Rarely does a novel, and that too a debut, paralyse with the sharpness of its prose and concreteness of its dialogues, as does *Radiant Fugitives* by Nawaaz Ahmed.

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Its narrator, a newly born Ishraaq, begins the story with this sentence: “My life outside my mother’s womb has just begun.” Though the book draws inspiration from the Quran and John Keats’ poetry, it seems that Ishraaq is an Abhimanyu from the Mahabharata — an all-knowing superchild.

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Ishraaq guides the reader through a politically charged atmosphere in San Francisco's Bay Area where his mother Seema, a queer activist and political campaigner, has begun her life afresh after a brief heteronormative relationship with a Black man — Ishraaq's father. As a lesbian who moved to a cis-het relationship, Seema had to inevitably brave puzzled responses from the queer community, but she handles them with grace, as she's not new to this ostracisation.

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Fifteen years ago, when she had come out, her decision severed relationships with her family, especially with her father and Tahera, her younger sibling — a devout, five-time praying Muslim, with whom she's not on speaking terms. Tension and pent-up feelings between the siblings reach a crescendo when Seema meets Tahera and their mother after this gap — they come to be with Seema for she is going through a difficult pregnancy with Ishraaq.

In telling a sensitive and deeply invested portrayal of the time leading up to the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States, Ahmed shows in the novel a world built on hope. But how long can hope contest with a numbing and chilling reality that foretells devastation? Or as his narrator puts it: "Death sings in ways Birth cannot. It takes a lifetime to perfect that purity of tone, the vibrato of lament."



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Radiant Fugitives, by Nawaaz Ahmed; Westland, 385 pages, ₹699

Documenting the everydayness of life — vulnerable moments, potent with meaning, which we (sometimes even deliberately) miss — Ahmed creates characters whose observations are so well thought out and soul-baring that it feels almost impossible to accept this book as fiction. These characters' familial bonds explore emotional terrains often left untouched.

Through them, Ahmed examines an array of inquires — for example, is it appropriate to vehemently suggest to teenagers that they not practice Islam; or should one stop being bitter to a mother just because her end is near; is it okay, as a lesbian, to attend a pride parade now that you've slept with a straight man and are bearing his child; is it possible ever to stop being a lesbian?



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However, will any such confrontation with religion or sexual orientation, both considered so sacrosanct, result in anything in a world characterised by hatred towards Muslims (post-9/11) and queers, and especially in a country that fashions itself as most developed, democratic, and ideal?

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that *Radiant Fugitives* is exploring the limits of political willingness and correctness. Above all, it examines whether language is capable of encapsulating what remains said and unsaid between a daughter and a mother, between lovers, and even between a dying mother and a newly born son. It's this onerous task that the novel takes upon itself — a task which, in my view, can never be finished — for despite a life ending in the book, another one embarks on a journey that will be haunted by its past.

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Why the F1 season finale left many wanting for more

This certainly won't be the end of Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen's Formula 1 rivalry. You can expect more fireworks from this duel next season



Max Verstappen became the first Dutchman ever to win the Formula One world championship title when he won a dramatic season-end Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on December 12, 2021. (AFP)

By Nitin Sreedhar

LAST UPDATED 15.12.2021 | 08:30 AM IST

No matter where you were on Sunday evening, it is quite possible that you felt a bit of Formula 1 around you. Even the most disinterested of neutral viewers tuned in for what was dubbed as "the duel in the desert": Hamilton versus Verstappen, Mercedes versus Red Bull in the final race of an enthralling F1 season – the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. By the end of it, the universal reaction can be summed up in words that resonate more with football fans: Formula 1, bloody hell

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After a 2020 season that was heavily affected by the pandemic, this was a campaign that saw 23 races, fans returning to the stands again – remember the atmosphere at Silverstone and Zandvoort? – and an introduction to the Sprint qualifying format. Let's recap on some of the biggest talking points of the 2021 F1 season and what comes next.

A rivalry that will grow

India has Roger Federer fans, Rafael Nadal fans. There are Messi fans, and Ronaldo supporters. And for a country that has not been on the F1 calendar for more than 8 years now, India certainly has Max Verstappen fans and supporters that regard Lewis Hamilton as one of the greatest F1 drivers of all time.

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In that sense, the final lap shootout between Hamilton and Verstappen was nothing short of extraordinary. Purely in terms of entertainment, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix delivered with aplomb. Verstappen snatched the world championship away from Hamilton, who must now wait for that record-breaking 8th world title.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates after he became the world champion after winning the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. On the right is Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. (AP)


From the sporting side of things, however, there's so much more to understand. With five laps to go out of a total 58, Hamilton was cruising towards the drivers' championship. Then Williams driver Nicholas Latifi crashed. Out came the safety car, Verstappen pitted for a set of soft tyres, while Hamilton remained in the lead, but on a set of hard tyres that were more than 40 laps old.

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What followed next has left viewers and pundits around the world perplexed. Race director Michael Masi's decision to let some, and not all lapped cars through, infuriated Mercedes. There was similar confusion around the safety car regulations. The race restarted and Verstappen hunted down Hamilton on the last lap. He had just won his maiden world championship title. Red Bull were elated, while Toto Wolff, the Mercedes team boss, and his team were distraught. As BBC's Andrew Benson wrote recently, the world championship had changed hands as a result of a questionable call from the race director.

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In the aftermath, Mercedes lodged two protests, but they were both dismissed by the stewards, confirming the race result. *The Guardian's* Giles Richards called it a "confusing end" for F1 fans, who deserved better.



Formula 1 
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The grand finale to a season that had everything 🎉



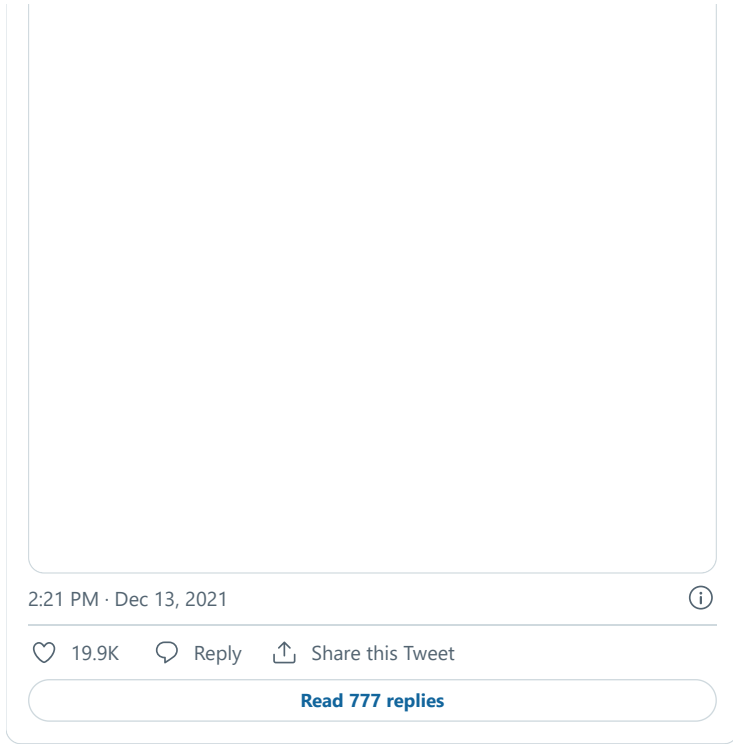
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This takes nothing away from Verstappen’s fantastic season though. The Dutchman secured 10 wins, 10 pole positions and was on the podium 18 times this season. He pushed Hamilton to the limit, who found a new side to his own driving. His performance at Interlagos, among other races this season, where he went from the back of the grid to beat Verstappen, was a testament to that. They crashed, sparred, went wheel to wheel on many occasions and finished 1-2 a remarkable 14 times in 2021. It was an unforgettable season of motor-racing. You can expect more fireworks from this duel next year.

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Third-placed Ferrari's Spanish driver Carlos Sainz Jr celebrates on the podium of the Yas Marina Circuit after the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix on December 12, 2021. (AFP)

Ferrari's ascendancy

Behind the Hamilton-Verstappen melee, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz finished the race by earning a podium place. His 3rd place finish, combined with Charles Leclerc at P10, meant that Scuderia Ferrari finished an stellar third in this year's constructor standings, comfortably ahead of their nearest rivals McLaren. That is a massive improvement for a team that was 6th last year in the team standings.

In Sainz and Leclerc, Ferrari have a stable driver combination. The Spaniard, in particular, has been really impressive. He finished his debut season for Ferrari with four podiums and also secured fifth place in the driver standings. The *Tifosi* have much to be excited about for next season.

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Finland's Kimi Raikonen waves as he walks on the starting grid just before racing in his last race the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday, 12 December. 2021. (AP)

Driver changes and farewells

When the dust finally settles, F1 fans will fondly remember Kimi Räikkönen, who participated in his final race on Sunday. The 42-year-old Finn had an early end to his race, after retiring the car due to a crash. He leaves as one of the most decorated drivers of his generation with a world championship title in 2007, 21 race wins, 103 podiums and 349 Grand Prix starts, the most by any driver, to his name.

Next year's F1 grid will also have a host of exciting young drivers. George Russell, 23, bids goodbye to Williams and will join Hamilton as his teammate for the 2022 season. Meanwhile, Hamilton's now former partner Valtteri Bottas will drive for Alfa Romeo next year, who have also replaced Italian Antonio Giovinazzi with Guanyu Zhou, 22, who is set to become China's first-ever full-time F1 driver. Alex Albon, 25, formerly of Red Bull, will replace Russell at Williams.

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The 2022 season is not far away


A change in regulations and a new car for the 2022 season promise a reset of sorts for F1. The new car, which was unveiled in July this year, is designed to promote better, closer racing. The cars next year will also feature new tyres from Pirell. According to *F1.com*, the new Pirelli compounds and constructions for these 18-inch wheels have been designed with the aim of reducing the amount of overheating in the tyres when they slide – an aspect that would help with closer racing.

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Formula 1 
@F1 

Fernando enjoyed his first season back in F1 💪
And he cannot wait for 2022 (nor can we!) 😊

#AbuDhabiGP  @AlpineF1Team

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Who will design the more efficient, faster car? Verstappen will now enter a season as the champion, not the contender. And as former F1 driver David Coulthard told the *BBC* earlier this week, Hamilton’s commitment to the sport is “unquestionable”: “He's already committed to another two years. He's a team person... and he'll be there next year trying to win his eighth world title.”

The answer to all these questions is just around 90 days away, with the new season due to begin in Bahrain on 20 March, 2022. Alpine’s Fernando Alonso, a former world champion who returned to F1 this season after a two-year break, summed it up rightly in a radio message to his team after taking the checkered flag on Sunday. “Thank you for the season. You were amazing. This was a warm up... Yes, it’s only the beginning. The best is just to come, next year. I promise.” Count us in, Fernando.

Also read: [Lewis Hamilton’s record-equalling win is a lesson on life and longevity](#)

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This is the real problem with India's employment data

A serious issue with jobs data in India is that official classifications can make low-paying, insecure jobs seem like robust employment



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Official classifications in jobs data can make low-paying jobs seem like secure employment. A file photo of migrant workers leaving cities their homes in villages during the covid-19 lockdown in 2020. (HT_PRINT)

By Rukmini S

LAST UPDATED 15.12.2021 | 07:00 AM IST

Faced in February 2019 with a leaked report that showed record high unemployment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a speech to Parliament declared that the problem was that jobs in the new economy were not being captured by the data.

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It is true that some employment is not adequately understood yet by the National Sample Surveys, but the problem isn’t exactly that the government is missing people in the gig economy. A bigger issue is that official classifications can make low-paying, insecure jobs seem like robust employment. Among the codes in the

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women (after domestic cleaners and garment workers). Sounds high-skilled and well-paying? Not so much, labour economists find; it might just be a fancy-sounding way of describing people who run their own small one-person enterprise.

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Of the women workers described as directors and chief executives, 99 per cent were actually self-employed, of which around one-third worked as unpaid family workers. These women were mainly engaged within self-help groups and co-operatives as 'partners', and had thus been recorded as directors or working proprietors, even as their activities for the most part remained confined to food processing and textile and garment manufacturing. A large proportion of self-employed women workers were also engaged in outsourced manufacturing work, typically characterised by low earnings, long hours and lack of any form of social protection.

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Cover of Whole Numbers and Half Truths by Rukmini S, published by Westland.

The gulf between the jobs that people want for themselves and for their children and the jobs that are actually available is enormous, and widening. Across age, location, caste and class—in fact, even more so for upper castes and the rich—the first preference of Indians in terms of employment is a government job.

Also read: [What drives the dreams of women factory workers?](#)

In addition to some stability, these jobs also offer better pay. At all levels, but particularly at the lowest education and skill levels, private-sector salaries are below public-sector salaries. Due to a guaranteed minimum salary in government service, a cleaning worker in a government office is likely to earn far more than a domestic servant doing the same work in a private home or business, the IHDS shows. In 2012, a rural agricultural wage labourer could expect to earn about ₹17,500 per year, while the urban non-agricultural labourer



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Government or public-sector employment also serves as a moderating influence on other forms of social inequalities that market forces exacerbate. While women earn lower salaries in both public and private sector, the ratio of female to male salaries is considerably higher in the public sector than in the private sector. Similarly, salary inequalities among various social groups are larger in the private sector than in the public sector. Regardless of the sector, forward castes have higher salaries than OBCs, Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims. But the differences in government salaries by social group are lesser in the public sector at both lower and higher skill levels.

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For the most prestigious category of white-collar jobs, caste hierarchies have remained largely static over the past five decades. The share of men who are in professional or salaried jobs is already by far the highest among Brahmin, and then non-Brahmin forward-caste men, even with reservation in place for those from backward castes and no reservation for upper castes, on account of the disproportionate access historically high levels of education and income give to the upper castes.

Much of this can be explained by the difference in educational attainment. But this is not a full explanation. In a classic experiment, the economists Sukhadeo Thorat and Paul Attewell found that Dalit respondents to job advertisements were less likely to be called than upper-caste respondents with the same qualifications.

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Since 2011-12, the government has not published a full Employment and Unemployment survey, as the NSSO reports are called, but has moved from 2017 to the PLFS. This aims to provide higher-frequency (quarterly) employment and unemployment data, but statistical aims are at the mercy of political forces. The first PLFS annual report was expected in December 2018, but the government delayed its release until after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, presumably because the numbers were bad.

The NSSO could do a better job of collecting data from the informal sector (just as it should do a better job of obtaining data on the professions of the superrich). The NSSO has itself constituted numerous committees which have come out with dense reports on ways to improve its informal-sector data. The PLFS, which the government had largely ignored thanks to its unflattering numbers, was supposed to be one step in this direction. Once the 2019 elections had come and gone, the government went back to quietly releasing the PLFS reports regularly and without much fanfare or controversy.



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All of this was pre-pandemic. Although the PLFS was meant to be quarterly, there was no labour data available right through 2020 up until August 2021, as the pandemic threw not just lives and jobs, but also administrative systems out of gear. As a result, many economists have turned to the CMIE, a large sample panel survey that is private, paid and closed. Modi and his administration, on the other hand, have chosen to point to administrative data like payroll statistics.

Modi is right—there is a problem with jobs data. But it isn't the one he claims, that the data doesn't capture jobs. The problem is that the government is neglecting its own data mechanisms, which can capture all the data about real Indian jobs, and suppressing them when they prove inconvenient. India's jobs crisis is two-fold—not enough jobs and suppressed data.

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Excerpted with permission from Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India by Rukmini S., published by Context, an imprint of Westland Publications.

Also read: [100,000 women left the workforce in 5 years, only 2% rejoined](#)

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country's craft cheese makers are winning hearts and awards



View of Garrafao cheese in Alagoa, southern region of Minas Gerais, Brazil. 57 Brazilian cheeses won medals at the biennial Mondial du F in Tours, France in September. It's a recognition that put unsung Brazil, a country not widely known for its cheese, second only to France podium of the world's best. (Photo by DOUGLAS MAGNO / AFP)

By AFP

LAST UPDATED 15.12.2021 | 10:45 AM IST

Good luck finding a GPS signal or sign to get to Rita de Cassia's secluded farm in the mountains of southeastern Brazil. The best bet for food-lovers chasing her award-winning handmade cheese is to stop and ask for directions.

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Brazil, a country not widely known for its cheese, second only to France on the podium of the world's best.

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"What do your cows eat that makes the cheese so delicious?": that is the question Brazil's representative at the event, Debora de Carvalho, says she got time and again from French colleagues.

The bucolic region where Cassia's farm sits, in the longtime "queijo" (cheese) producing state of Minas Gerais, harbors a few answers. Settled three centuries ago by colonists digging for gold, the area started producing cheese when an Italian shoemaker, Paschoal Poppa, arrived in the village of Alagoa in the early 20th century with a recipe for parmesan.

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Today, the municipality of 2,700 people is home to no less than 135 cheese-makers, several of whom have won prizes at recent editions of the festival in

[Tours That is generating a nascent gastronomy tourism industry in Alagoa](#)



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The prizes "have changed our lives," says Dirce Martins, who has been making cheese here for 39 years. "Nobody used to come here. Buyers basically paid whatever price they wanted for our cheese. Now we have all these visitors," she says, giving a tour of the small room where she ages her multi-award-winning "Fumace" on wooden shelves.

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Her cows graze at an altitude of 1,500 meters (nearly 5,000 feet), on otherwise untouched land rich in soil nutrients. Working alongside her husband and son, Martins produces at most 60 smoked cheeses a day.

Cassia, 32, has a similarly small operation: she and her husband, Marcos, make around 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of cheese a day with their 15 dairy cows, who sport names like France, Spain and Denmark.

"It's hard work -- 6:00 am to 10:00 pm every day, rain or shine, or even



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"And the competition is tough," she adds, as she shows how she and her husband artificially inseminate the cows themselves. She learned the trade from her father-in-law. "It became a passion," she says. "Cheese is almost a living being."

She and her husband credit the silver medal they won in France with luring the big-city suppliers who now brave the rocky valley road to their farm to buy their cheeses at 45 reais (\$8) apiece. "It gave us a lot of visibility," she says.

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'Legalize' cheese

"For a French cheese, winning a prize boosts its value by up to 20 percent. In Brazil, the increase is 300 to 400 percent," says Carvalho, the director of SerTaoBras, an association that promotes Brazilian craft cheeses.

World-famous or not, small cheese producers in Brazil say they are hampered by tough regulations on animal-based food products, modeled after those in the United States, where nearly all cheese is pasteurized.

"You have to meet 000 different conditions," says Carvalho. As a result, most



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In Brazil, "you could never get a permit to make a cheese like Cabrales, from Spain, which is aged in natural caves," says Juliana Jensen, research director for booming craft cheese producer Cruzilia.

The company won a "super gold" in France with its "Santo Casamenteiro," a blue cheese with apricots and nuts that looks like a wedding cake.

View of Santo Casamenteiro cheese stored in Cruzilia, southern region of Minas Gerais, Brazil, on December 1, 2021. (Photo by DOUGLAS MAGNO / AFP)

Cruzilia, which has a line of more than 90 products, has increased production by 30 percent in three years. "Brazilians are starting to look within our own borders



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