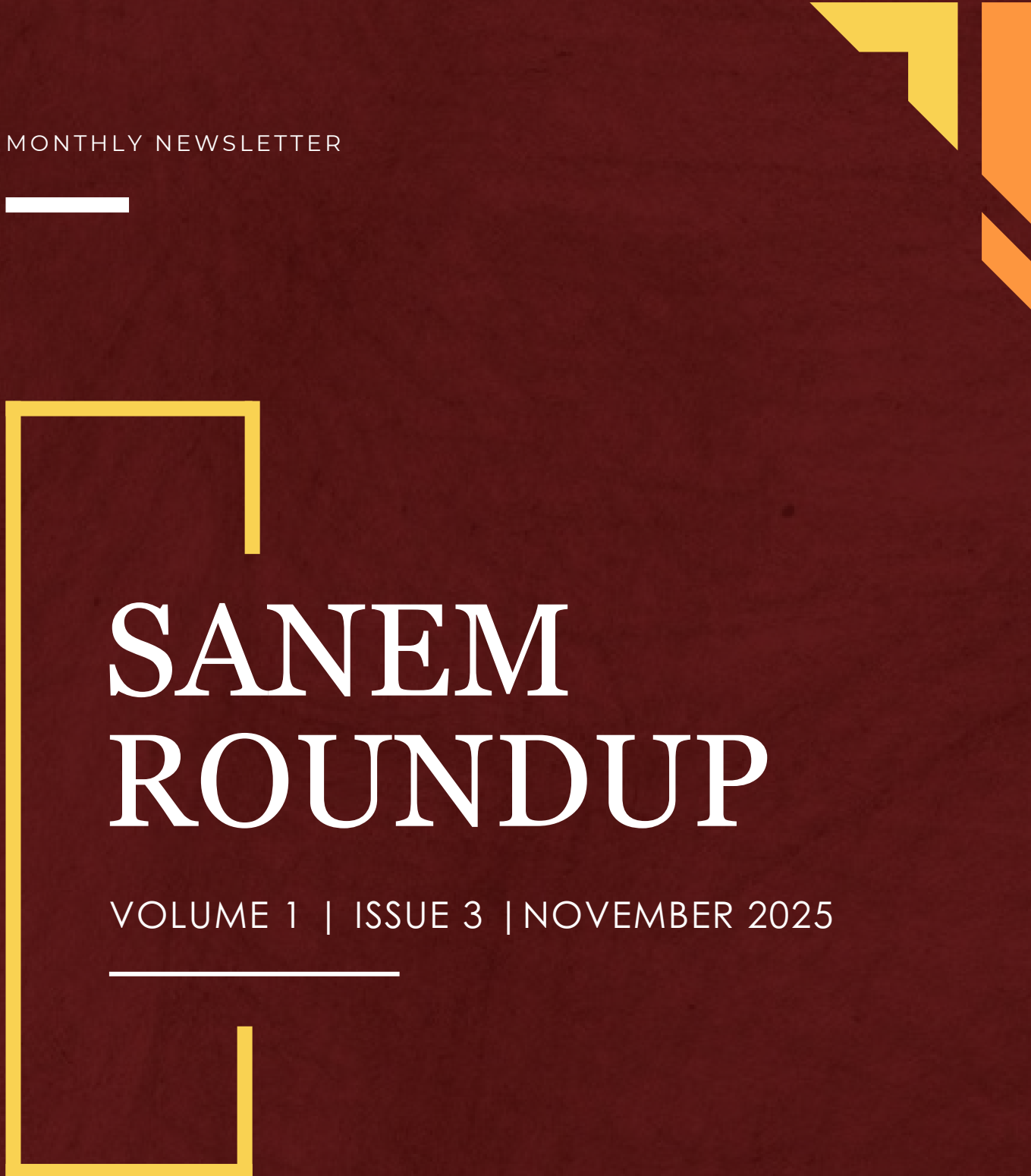


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



SANEM ROUNDUP

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3 | NOVEMBER 2025

SANEM
RESEARCH | KNOWLEDGE | DEVELOPMENT

Outline

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In October,

SANEM organised a capacity-building training on energy price fluctuations, hosted a session at the Global Development Conference, and conducted enumerator training for the LIRNEasia project. The issue also highlighted op-eds on topics such as the gender wage gap in the RMG sector, poverty reversal, the private sector's struggles, and power subsidies.

SANEM Spotlight



 [Download and Read](#)

Thinking Aloud

Volume XII, Issue 6: November 1, 2025

The November issue spotlights Bangladesh's efforts to revive a slowing economy through a focused two-year recovery agenda, strengthen its manufacturing sector amid technological and trade shifts, and confront persistent gender wage gaps in RMG.

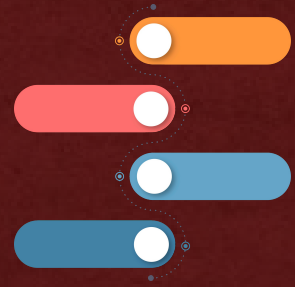
Introducing OrthoChinta

SANEM invites submissions for the first issue of its new Bangla publication, OrthoChinta. The platform aims to promote analytical and research-based writing on economics, development, and public policy in Bangla.

[Read the guidelines and submit.](#)



Monthly Highlights



SANEM Held Capacity-Building Training on Energy Price Fluctuations and the Macroeconomy



9 October 2025: SANEM organised a capacity-building training titled “Comprehensive Monitoring Framework on How Energy Price Fluctuations Affect the Macroeconomy” on 9 October 2025 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The training aimed to strengthen institutional capacity to analyse, interpret, and communicate the macroeconomic impacts of energy price volatility, a pressing issue for Bangladesh amid global market fluctuations and the ongoing transition toward cleaner energy sources.

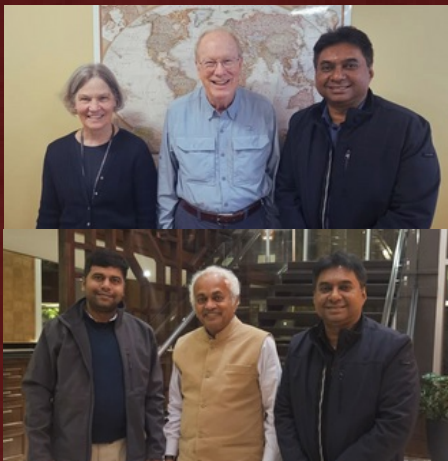
It was organised in three sequential phases: (1) how energy prices are determined, (2) how energy price shocks transmit through and affect the macroeconomy, and (3) how to co-create a robust data monitoring and assessment framework with relevant government and non-government stakeholders. The event featured a keynote lecture by Professor M Tamim, Vice-Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and former Head of the Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering at BUET. The event brought together representatives from key government bodies and international development partners.

SANEM-GDN Session on Digital Transformation and Financial Inclusion at Global Development Conference 2025

30 October 2025: SANEM-GDN session on "Digital Transformation and Financial Inclusion in the Global South" at the Global Development Conference 2025, Paris; explored how digital technologies enhance financial services access. Chaired by Prof. Jean-Louis Arcand, experts discussed mobile money, digital banking, and innovative models targeting underserved groups, including smallholder farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and women.



Dr. Selim Raihan Visited International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) HQ in Washington, D.C.



In October, Dr. Selim Raihan visited the IFPRI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., reconnecting with CGE model pioneers Dr. Sherman Robinson and Dr. Shantayanan Devarajan. Their discussions covered Bangladesh's development, global issues, and economic modeling. Dr. Raihan expressed gratitude for their intellectual influence and shared insights on the evolving landscape of global economic development.

SANEM Conducted Enumerator Training under LIRNEasia Project

6-7 October 2025: SANEM hosted a two-day training workshop under the LIRNEasia Project for its enumerators. The sessions were conducted by SANEM's Research Associates, Dipa Das and Sheikh Tausif Ahmed, with participation from Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director; Mahtab Uddin, Research Director; and Sudepto Roy, Research Associate.



SANEM Arranged Training on Data Cleaning for Researchers

28 October 2025: SANEM organised an in-house clinic session for its researchers on data cleaning techniques across multiple research tools, including Excel and KoBoToolbox. The session was conducted by Ekramul Hasan, Research Consultant at The World Bank, Bangladesh, who guided participants through practical data management workflows and shared best practices for improving data accuracy and consistency.



SANEM Brownbag Seminar Episode 3: Research Associate Mohammad Iftekharul Islam

12 October 2025: In the third episode of the SANEM Brownbag Seminar series, Mohammad Iftekharul Islam presented a paper titled “Does Climate Vulnerability Drive Public Health Spending? Evidence from South and Southeast Asia (2000–2022).”

The study examined how climate vulnerability influences public healthcare expenditure across 13 South and Southeast Asian countries using the ND-GAIN Climate Vulnerability Index.



SANEM Brownbag Seminar Episode 4: Research Associate Sheikh Tausif Ahmed

26 October 2025: Sheikh Tausif Ahmed presented a paper titled “Beyond the Mean: Distributional Decomposition of the Gender Wage Gap in Bangladesh’s Ready-Made Garment Sector,” co-authored with Mahtab Uddin, SANEM’s Research Director, in the fourth episode of the SANEM Brownbag Seminar series.



SANEM Insights



OPINION

কেন খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতির সরকারি হিসাব বাস্তব মনে হয় না

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৫: চলতি বছরের সেপ্টেম্বর মাসে বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো বা বিবিএসের তথ্যে খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতি সামান্য বৃদ্ধি দেখানো হয়েছে। তবে চাকার যেকোনো হাটবাজারে গেলেই বোঝা যায়, নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় পণ্যের মধ্যে চাল, আটা, ডাল, ভোজ্যতেল, মাংস ও মাছের মূল্যবৃদ্ধির হার সরকারি হিসাবের চেয়ে অনেক বেশি। কেন খাদ্য মূল্যস্ফীতির সরকারি হিসাব বাস্তবতার সঙ্গে মেলে না? - এ বিষয়ে প্রথম আলো-তে প্রকাশিত একটি নিবন্ধে আলোকপাত করেছেন সানেম-এর নির্বাহী পরিচালক ড. সেলিম রায়হান।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরোর তথ্য অনুযায়ী, বর্তমানে খাদ্যবহির্ভূত পণ্যের মূল্যস্ফীতি হলো সামগ্রিক মূল্যবৃদ্ধির প্রধান চালিকা শক্তি। কিন্তু এই পণ্যের দাম কিভাবে সংগ্রহ করা হয়, কত ঘন ঘন তা পর্যবেক্ষণ করা হয় এবং কোন গুরুত্ব তা হিসাব করা হয়, এসব প্রক্রিয়া এখনো অস্বচ্ছ।

OPINION

Is Precision Farming the Answer to Bangladesh's Agricultural Productivity Puzzle?

Zubayer Hossen

3 October 2025: In his Business Standard article, SANEM's Programme Director Zubayer Hossen explains that precision farming holds significant potential for boosting Bangladesh's agricultural productivity but cannot succeed without systemic reform. He points out barriers such as small farm sizes, high equipment costs, limited digital literacy, and weak infrastructure.

[Read more](#)

The story of sustainability in Bangladesh's garment industry is not really about plaques on the wall. Those are nice to look at, but they do not tell us if life has changed for the people inside.

SANEM Insights



OPINION

A Crisis in Plain Sight: Child Marriage and Violence Stalk the RMG Sector in Bangladesh

Dr. Selim Raihan

10 October 2025: Dr Selim Raihan states that recent research among young female RMG (ready-made garment) workers in Bangladesh reveals startling levels of child marriage and early pregnancy, even before employment begins. He argues this signals deep-rooted social and industrial vulnerabilities that economic participation alone cannot resolve. Focus must shift to workplace protections, community systems, and women's rights throughout the value chain.

[Read more](#)

Economic participation alone is not a magic bullet for women's empowerment and liberation.

OPINION

Why Are Urban Women Disappearing from the Manufacturing Sector?

Mahtab Uddin

9 October 2025: In his Daily Star article, SANEM's Research Director Mahtab Uddin highlights that despite continued export growth, female employment in urban manufacturing has fallen sharply from around 3.8 million to 1.95 million. He identifies key causes including automation, skill gaps, limited sector diversification, and weak social infrastructure such as childcare and transport. Dr. Mahtab calls for targeted reskilling, policy support for women-friendly workplaces, and a more inclusive industrial strategy to bring women back into the urban labour market.

[Read more](#)

Women in Bangladesh's manufacturing sector are not voluntarily leaving the workforce; they are losing their foothold in the industry.

SANEM Insights



OPINION

The Harsh Truth Behind Bangladesh's Poverty Reversal

Dr. Selim Raihan

8 October 2025: In his Daily Star article, Dr. Selim Raihan, argues that Bangladesh's recent rise in poverty reflects deep structural flaws rather than temporary shocks. He explains that inflation, declining real wages, and weak governance have eroded household resilience, while social protection and labour market reforms have lagged behind. Dr. Raihan calls for evidence-based policymaking and institutional accountability to ensure that economic recovery benefits those most affected by poverty.

[Read more](#)

“The question we must confront is not simply why poverty reversal is happening, but why the earlier gains proved so vulnerable in the first place.”

OPINION

Frozen Credit, Fading Confidence: Reviving Private Sector in Bangladesh in Uncertain Times

Dr. Selim Raihan

9 October 2025: Dr. Selim Raihan argues that Bangladesh's private-sector credit growth is at a 22-year low, signalling a deeper issue of business confidence erosion. He says high lending rates, political uncertainty, and regulatory inconsistency are paralysing investment. He calls for disciplined monetary policy, institutional clarity, and targeted credit guarantees to restore dynamism in the private sector.

[Read more](#)

“Unless both financial and political conditions improve in tandem, private sector dynamism will remain frozen.”

SANEM Insights



OPINION

Power Subsidies Aren't a Fix for Global Shocks

Md Razib and Md Tuhin Ahmed

25 October 2025: In an op-ed published in The Daily Star, SANEM's Research Associate Md Razib and Deputy Director Md Tuhin Ahmed argue that blanket power subsidies are not the answer to global energy shocks. They warn these subsidies mostly benefit the rich, strain public finances, and delay much-needed reforms, calling instead for targeted, efficient, and equitable energy policies.

[Read more](#)

“A significant portion of energy subsidies benefits wealthier households and industries rather than the low-income groups they are meant to support.”

OPINION

Reducing Poverty Demands Fairer Wealth Distribution

Dr. Selim Raihan

17 October 2025: In his Daily Star commentary, Dr. Raihan argues that tackling poverty requires more than economic growth; it demands fairer distribution of wealth and opportunities. He explains that rising inequality, weak fiscal capacity, and limited access to quality education and healthcare have widened the gap between the rich and poor. Dr. Raihan calls for progressive taxation, improved governance, and targeted social protection to ensure that Bangladesh's development benefits all segments of society.

[Read more](#)

“It is time we acknowledge that poverty in Bangladesh has changed its face. It is no longer confined only to rural isolation or food scarcity.”

SANEM Insights



OPINION

The Bitter Economics of Brain Drain

Neeladri Naviya Noveli

21 October 2025: In her SANEM CoRE commentary, Neeladri Naviya Noveli, Research Associate at SANEM, examines how Bangladesh's persistent brain drain reflects deeper structural challenges in the labour market. She notes that limited high-skill job opportunities, low research investment, and institutional bottlenecks continue to push talented graduates abroad. Noveli stresses that retaining human capital will require stronger links between academia and industry, competitive wages, and governance reforms that restore young professionals' confidence in the domestic economy.

[Read more](#)

“Bangladesh's brightest minds are leaving not just for better opportunities, but because they are disillusioned by a system that fails to nurture their potential.”

“বিদেশি সহযোগিতা গ্রহণের বিষয়টি বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতির উন্নতির জন্য পরিহারযোগ্য নয়; বরং অনেক ক্ষেত্রেই তা প্রয়োজনীয় ও ফলদায়ক। তবে কৌশলগত খাত পরিচালনার দায়িত্বে বিদেশি প্রতিষ্ঠানের ভূমিকা কতটা থাকবে, আর রাষ্ট্রীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণ কতটা বজায় থাকবে

OPINION

বন্দরের উন্নয়নে বিদেশি সহযোগিতা: সম্ভাবনা, শর্ত ও সতর্কতা

ড. সেলিম রায়হান

১৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৫: সম্প্রতি চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরের লালদিয়া, নিউমুরিং কন্টেইনার টার্মিনাল (এনসিটি) ও ঢাকার কেরানীগঞ্জের পানগাঁও টার্মিনাল পরিচালনার জন্য বিদেশি অপারেটর নিয়োগের সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে সরকার। এ বিষয়ে প্রথম আলো-তে প্রকাশিত একটি নিবন্ধে আলোকপাত করেছেন সানেম-এর নির্বাহী পরিচালক ড. সেলিম রায়হান।

[বিস্তারিত পড়ুন।](#)

SANEM Explains

In Conversation WITH



Sudepto Roy
Research Associate
SANEM



[Watch the Video](#)

Knowledge Products



Navigating Uncertainty: Bangladesh's LDC Graduation, Deferral Debate, and the Future of Reform

Selim Raihan

October 2025: In a new policy paper under the SANEM and Australian High Commission in Bangladesh's collaborative Policy Paper Series, Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director of SANEM, critically examines Bangladesh's forthcoming graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. The paper revisits the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS), the debate over a possible deferral, and the broader reform agenda required to ensure a smooth, sustainable transition.



 [Download and Read](#)

COVID-19 and South Asia's Economic Landscape: Impacts and Lessons Learned

Dr. Selim Raihan and Iyanatul Islam (Editors)

October 2025: Published by Routledge, this edited volume by Dr. Selim Raihan, Executive Director of SANEM, and Dr. Iyanatul Islam, Distinguished Fellow, SANEM explores how the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped South Asia's economic and social landscape. Drawing on contributions from leading regional economists, the book analyses growth shocks, labour-market disruptions, poverty outcomes, and policy responses across countries.



 [Link to the Publication](#)

Announcement



Call for Participation | 9th SAEC 2026

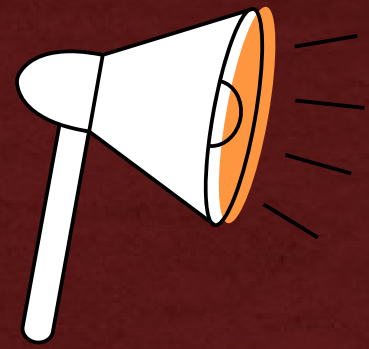


SANEM extends a warm invitation to you for the **9th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2026** on “**Development Challenges and Policy Responses in a Changing World**” scheduled to be held from **9-11 January 2026** at the **BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka**. This event will be both in-person and online.

The three-day conference will feature a series of panel discussions addressing contemporary issues, along with presentations of 80+ papers covering topics such as macroeconomic stability, labour market dynamics, energy security, sustainable climate solutions, trade integration, poverty and inequality, gender inequality, agriculture and food security, and governance and public policy.

[Click here for details](#)

Announcement



Call for Digital Artwork | 9th SAEC 2026

A promotional banner for a digital art competition. At the top center is the SANEM logo, which consists of a circular emblem with the text 'SANEM' and 'ANNUAL ECONOMISTS' CONFERENCE 2025'. Below the logo, the text 'CALL FOR DIGITAL ART' is written in a large, bold, red font, followed by 'YOUTH. ART. ECONOMY' in a smaller, bold, black font. Underneath, it says 'Open for all youths aged 15-30 yrs'. The central part of the banner features five colored rectangular boxes, each containing a theme: 'ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION & LABOUR MARKET' (blue), 'SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INCLUSION' (orange), 'ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & JUST TRANSITION' (green), 'POLITICAL ECONOMY, GEOPOLITICS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE' (purple), and 'TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & THE FUTURE OF WORK' (brown). To the right of these boxes is an illustration of a paint palette and brushes. On the left side of the banner, there is an illustration of a person sitting on a stool, painting on an easel. At the bottom center, the text 'Submission Deadline: 30 November 2025' and 'ORGANISED BY: YOUTHONOMICS' is displayed.

SANEM through its **Youthonomics** initiative is calling for digital artwork from Bangladeshi youth aged 15 to 30 that addresses themes such as economic transformation, social inclusion, climate change, geopolitics, innovation and the future of work. Selected illustrations will receive certificates of appreciation and cash prizes. Winning artworks will also be featured across various promotional materials (banners, folders, notebooks, etc.) at the **9th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (9SAEC) 2026**.

The submissions must be full-colour digital illustrations accompanied by a short caption, and must be submitted via their online form by **30 November 2025**.

[Click here for details](#)



SANEM, launched in January 2007 in Dhaka, is a non-profit research organization. It is also a network of economists and policy makers in South Asia with a special emphasis on economic modeling. SANEM aims to promote the production, exchange and dissemination of basic research knowledge in the areas of international trade, macro economy, poverty, labour market, environment, political economy, sustainability, renewable energy, and economic modeling. It seeks to produce objective, high quality, country- and South Asian region-specific policy and thematic research. SANEM contributes in governments' policy-making by providing research supports both at individual and organizational capacities.



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