# Article information:

Impact of freebies on the economy of a state
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/truth-lies-and-politics/impact-of-freebies-on-the-economy-of-a-state/>

# Article summary:

1. Freebies have become a prominent feature in India's electoral politics, with political parties announcing a string of freebies to woo voters.

2. The impact of freebies was visible in the 2021 Kerala Assembly elections and the recent Punjab Assembly election, where the Aam Aadmi Party won with a thumping majority by promising free electricity and financial assistance to women.

3. Experts caution that providing unsustainable freebies can put a strain on state budgets and restrict their capacity to commit more finances to critical social sectors like health and education. The Election Commission needs to take strong steps to curb this tendency before forthcoming elections.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article discusses the impact of freebies on the economy of a state, particularly in the context of Indian politics. The author argues that political parties are using freebies as a tool to win elections, without considering the long-term economic consequences. The article cites examples from recent elections in Kerala and Punjab, where promises of subsidised rice, free electricity, and financial assistance for women were used to woo voters.

The article raises valid concerns about the sustainability of such promises and their impact on state budgets. However, it is important to note that the article presents a one-sided view of the issue. While it highlights the potential risks associated with freebies, it does not explore their potential benefits or counterarguments.

For instance, proponents of freebies argue that they can help alleviate poverty and improve social welfare. They also argue that such policies can stimulate economic growth by increasing consumer spending and creating jobs. These arguments are not explored in the article.

Moreover, the article makes unsupported claims about the negative impact of freebies on state budgets without providing evidence or analysis to support them. For example, it states that providing 300 units of electricity free every month is expected to increase the subsidy bill by at least Rs 5,000 crore according to experts. However, no sources or data are provided to support this claim.

The article also appears to be biased against certain political parties. It criticises Aam Aadmi Party for promising free electricity and water in Delhi but does not mention other parties making similar promises in other states. Similarly, it highlights the financial burden of AAP's promises in Punjab but does not provide similar analysis for other parties' promises.

Overall, while the article raises valid concerns about the impact of freebies on state budgets and economic sustainability, it presents a one-sided view of the issue and lacks evidence-based analysis. It would benefit from exploring both sides of the argument and providing more data-driven insights into its potential risks and benefits.

# Topics for further research:

* Benefits of freebies in social welfare and poverty alleviation
* Economic impact of freebies on consumer spending and job creation
* Evidence-based analysis of the negative impact of freebies on state budgets
* Comparison of freebie promises made by different political parties in India
* Long-term sustainability of freebie policies in Indian states
* Case studies of successful implementation of freebie policies in other countries

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/7ad994708064f7a664abd94362f27334>