

INDIA & G20  
ANALYZING DEVELOPMENT  
DIMENSIONS OF POLICY  
PRIORITIES

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# **INDIA & G20**

## **Analyzing Development Dimensions of Policy Priorities**

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## Preface

The G20 has strikingly emerged as a strong and pivotal multilateral carrying important decision-making powers to shape the geo-political realities around the world. In its 10-year journey it has defined important goals and milestones for the global community to act upon. As a strong developing country that is incrementally closing on to become the future development and growth powerhouse of the world, India is trying to pursue specific aspirations that are integral to its national interests. This coincides with its affirmation to hold the G20 in 2022 in tandem with the celebration of 75 years of India's independence. Over the years, India has put forward its basket of economic and development agendas which are critically important for its future growth and sustainability. As such, G20 will be an important event in the history of the Indian republic; since it will be for the first time the world will descend to India to ink in the future direction of global geo-polity and converge on multilateral cooperation. Aligned to this, a range of stakeholders invested in development initiatives are eagerly looking at India. This is because a majority of G20 meetings have been restricted to the global north. At the previous G20 meetings, India has been keenly vouching for a just global financial regime, collective action for sustainable development and joint efforts in addressing socio-economic issues plaguing the developing bloc. To a considerable extent, it has taken considerable efforts to close its own development gaps and achieve critical milestones that are espoused by the G20. This is observable in the report, which outlines the developmental challenges and responses over the years. Critically the report examines the range of development issues that have been taken up at the G20 and their relative policy actions delivered via legislations, schemes and programs of the Indian government. However, while there are glaring gaps in some areas, the report compiles a list of recommendations from the vantage point of civil society. Moreover, the report intends to track the commitments of India at G20 and their follow-up at the ground. While there is a lot to be achieved, a meaningful partnership mechanism on lines of SDG 17 needs to be critically evolved for pursuing G20 objectives for development. For this report, I would like to thank its supporters- Heinrich Boell Foundation and their India head Ms. Marion Regina Muller and Ms. Shalini Yog Shah, Deputy Director for helping us prepare this document. I would also like to thank Mr. Arjun Phillips, Programme Manager for writing the report.

Towards a successful G20 in 2022!

Harsh Jaitli,

CEO, VANI

# Executive Summary

India is increasingly becoming influential in global multilateralism based upon its phenomenal economic growth, positive development trajectory and future growth potential. Ever since G20 came into being, it has annually drawn out its agenda which are reflective of national and global realities and are based on realpolitik assessments. In recent years, it has come to attach great importance to the G20 because of its inclusive character that is open to all types of stakeholders and provides abundant opportunity for pursuing bilateral, trilateral, quadrilateral diplomacy and partnerships. This has encouraged India to become dynamic in this multilateral and instrumental in outlining key global policy initiatives. Bolstered by this, it has taken a global lead on pitching for a conducive financial regime, ensure sustainable development, battle out climate change and safeguard the interests of the developing world. Since 2011, India's priorities have almost exclusively dealt on development and finance both well recognized and intertwined objectives that are highly essential for delivering on the Agenda 2030. Importantly India has taken determined efforts to reduce poverty gaps, diminish underdevelopment, ensure women empowerment, tackle unemployment, increase financial inclusion, attract foreign investment, reduce corruption through policies that have hugely made impact at the structural level. In precedence is the financial imperative that aims to promote conducive environments for industry and commerce that have been engines in advancing its economic position to emerge as one of the top GDP contributors to global economy. Based on these contexts, it will host the G20 presidency in 2022 in conjunction to the country's 75 years of independence. Inevitably this will propel India's stature on the world stage and is determined to change the course of its foreign policy paradigm and scale up its leadership in South Asia. This is well substantiated by the vision of the Government of India to reach the \$5 trillion economy by 2022 via an array of reformist measures that stimulate consumption, spending and attract foreign investment. However, critics strongly hold opinion that to reach optimum targeted levels there must be focused interventions that are quantitatively and qualitatively responsive. 2022, therefore holds the very opportunity to realize the development dreams that unleash India's growth potential. But to begin with there is a need to formulate structural understanding on the past experiences of policy commitments for avoidance of future policy paralysis and failures that can render these exercises futile. As such, the study is an effort to document, analyze and capture the development commitments of India since 2011 at the G20 and their domestic implementation to sketch a roadmap for 2022. The purpose- to ensure that by 2022, the ground is prepared for India to showcase to the world on its progress on development priorities and be role model for the developing world to emulate. Importantly, Indian civil society is eagerly looking forward to deepening its partnership with the Indian government for effectively reaching the SDGs and closing development gaps by 2030. Through the G20 liaison group Civil 20 or C20, it will utilize its field level data, experiences, service delivery chains to collaborate on building effective policy measures that yield quality outcomes on the ground. Effectively, the report presents a macro-economic outlay of what have been achieved and what remains unfulfilled with an aspiration to make India an inclusive, economic and developed nation in the coming years.

Year	G20 Summit	India's priorities at G20
2011	Cannes, France	Exchange of tax-related information; Supporting IMF; Sustainable growth in industrialized and developing country; Infrastructure Investment and reduce fiscal deficit; Growth in economy and financial inclusion
2012	Los Cabos, Mexico	Support IMF, Infrastructure Investment, Regulatory Reform, Issue of food security and agricultural productivity, anti-corruption measures
2013	St. Petersburg, Russia	Reviving world economy, Currency Volatility, Monetary policies guided by national objectives
2014	Brisbane, Australia	Economic growth, Infrastructure development and Employment
2015	Antalya, Turkey	Terrorism and Refugee; Enhancing Resilience and global financial system; Inclusive growth, global economy, growth strategies, employment and investment strategies
2016	Hangzhou, China	Economic agenda (multilateral approach to address the issue of excess capacity, support multilateralism); Brexit and its impact, problem of AMR; tax evaders; Global Terrorism
2017	Hamburg, Germany	Sharing the benefits of Globalization, Building Resilience, Sustainability, Responsibility
2018	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fugitive economic offences and asset recovery; cooperation in agriculture & food processing, space, defense, oil & gas & civil nuclear energy; Globalization and multilateralism; Development & sustainability
2019	Osaka, Japan	Digital Economy, WTO reform, Clean Energy, Sustainable Development

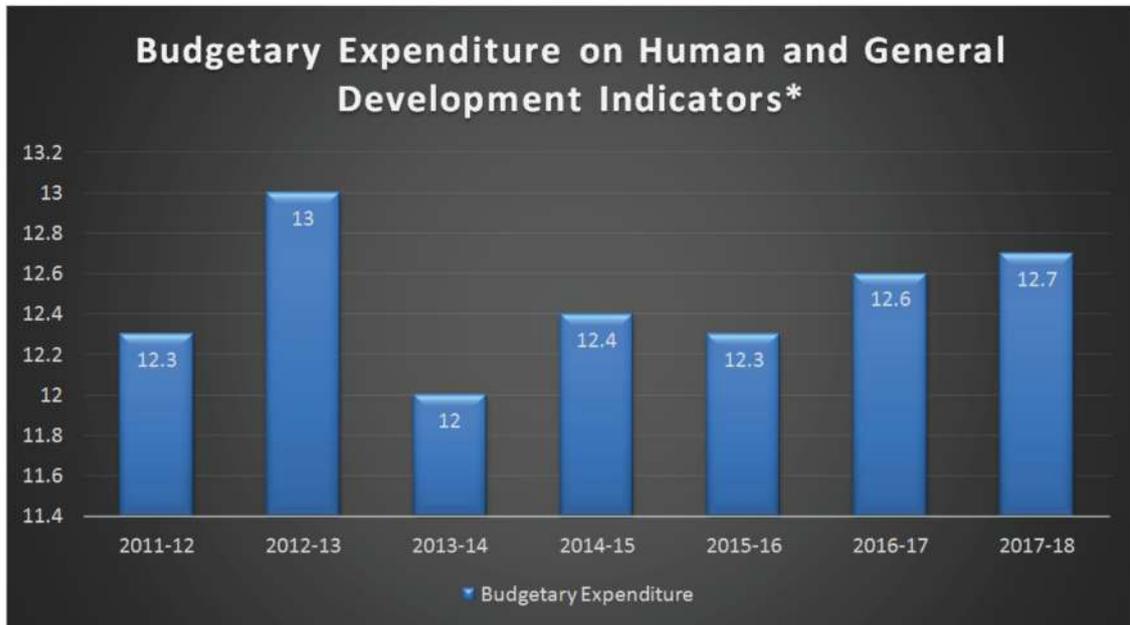
# Introduction

G20's rapid ascendancy on the global front has made it a significant decision-making platform for driving socio-economic development that carry potency to deliver on domestic policy actions. Mainly because it is a convergence point for all multilateral country groupings such as G7, BRICS and MIKTA. As an informal group of world leaders- it follows a participatory, inclusive and open stakeholder approach that seeks input from a spectrum of actors. Notably the G20 relies on engagement groups such as the Civil 20 as a grounded approach for designing its annual resolutions. Ever since the Seoul Development Consensus in 2011, G20 has been successively focusing on ensuring that sustainable development becomes the cornerstone for its policy focus. This has resulted in adopting the G20's Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a policy framework to align the G20 Agenda with the 2030 Agenda. Demonstrated leadership by the G20 is critical for reaching the development goals because of plummeting development indicators<sup>i</sup>. As an engagement group the C20 or Civil 20 has been resourceful platform for developing social sector plans and using its advocacy to interface to influence the G20. The study specifically covers the areas that namely- Health, Education, Environment, Climate Change, Gender, Corruption, Infrastructure, Financial Architecture, Digital Economy, Trade and Investment. Since its formation-the C20 has been aggregating global development issues and feeding it into development and finance tracks of G20.

By 2022, India is expected to grow at 6.7%<sup>ii</sup> a projection 2.3 percentage points lower than the estimate envisioned by the Government of India for reaching the \$5 trillion growth benchmark<sup>iii</sup>. To reach this, a range of government schemes and programs have been unleashed. Integrated with this is the vision set for India through the New India strategy which aims for scaling domestic capabilities to reach desirable levels of developmental growth. Since 2011, India has aligned itself to the resolutions adopted by G20 leaders and engineered equivalent policy actions that target human development, mitigating climate risks and promote inclusive growth. Supplemented to this is the tax buoyancy that has helped boosting revenue for development efforts. Taxation has been a major subject of discussion at the G20 which has seen critical attention from almost all engagement groups. While sustainable development received focus from the government after the official adoption of the Agenda 2030 in 2015 for the purposes of the report, data has been examined from 2011. It is noteworthy that it received widespread focus after 2014 as a policy commitment, previous to which India had been raising concerns on financial regimes that safeguard its interests. However India's recent G20 experience mostly revolved around seeking cooperation in implementing stringent economic fugitive laws and terrorism. Increasingly India has also taken leadership on climate change via the International Solar Alliance that has attained widespread success in terms of countries joining the formation. Additionally at the Osaka Summit held in June 2019, Prime Minister unanimously agreed with the Japanese presidency to develop Quality Infrastructure as the priority for G20. With observable trends in past experiences it is highly likely that the Indian presidency will be inclined towards pitching an agenda which will be weaved around sustainable development, international financial cooperation, security and economic growth. Notably the next few

years will see unfolding of new strategies that will lay paradigms that may deeply change the trajectory of Indian socio-development and its global interaction at the G20.

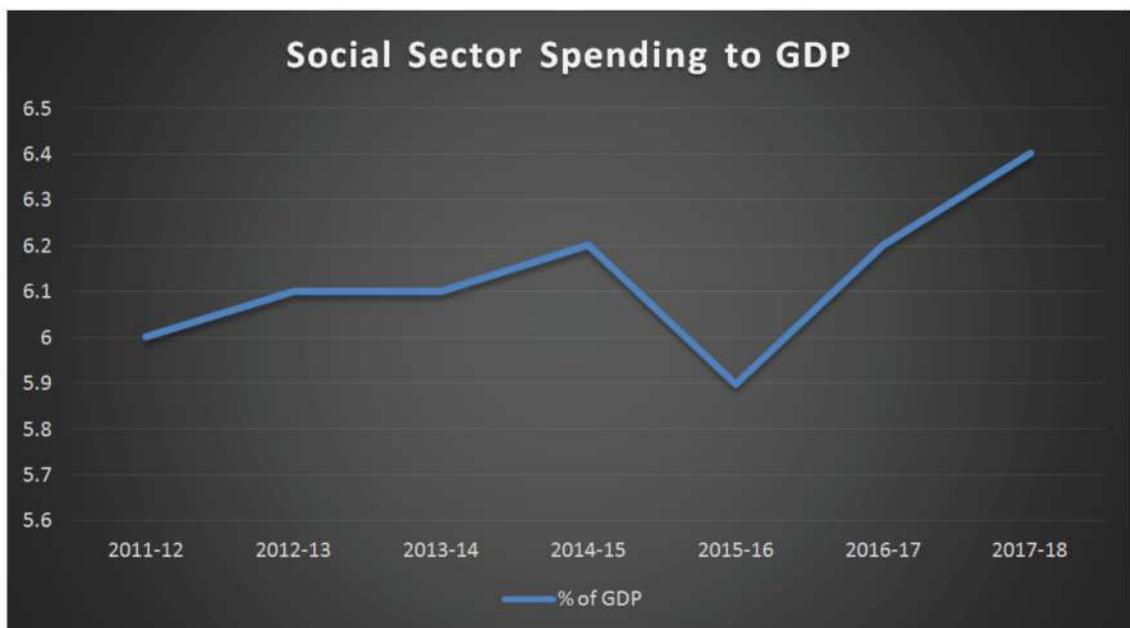
**FIGURE 1**



*\*Inclusive of rural development, water and sanitation, education, health, housing*

*Source: Economic Survey 2011-2017*

**FIGURE 2**



*Source: Economic Surveys from 2017-18*

India for long has been relying on socio-development plans and schemes implemented by the government are catalysts to achieve the goal of development and construct socially inclusive, economically healthy, and democratically governed societies. Unequal human development among states is marred across all prevailing literature. Several studies with their different quantitative methodologies concluded that expenditure in the social sector is an important determinant of economic growth.

In figure 1 budgetary allocations towards Human and General Development Indicators have maintained a consistency yet there are observable dips.

In figure 2 More or less a 6% share of GDP consistency is maintained. A major source for implementation of underlying schemes under the rubric of development are publicly financed through taxation.

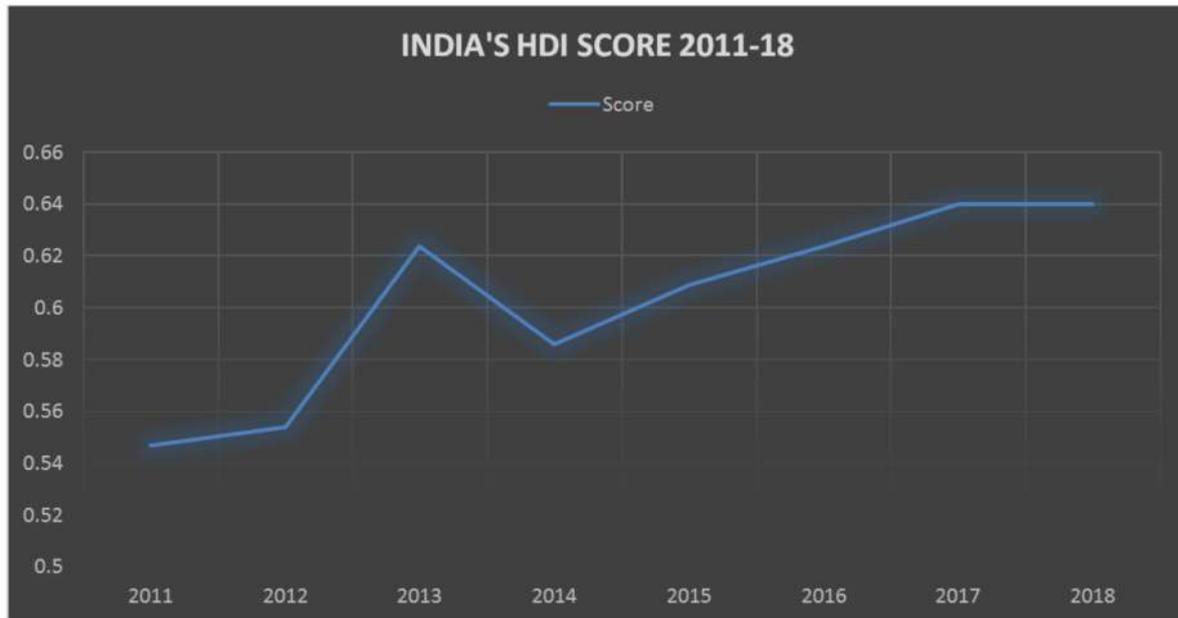
As observed subsequent to 2016 an increase in GDP towards social development has been integrated subsequent to the G20's call of action to achieve Agenda 2030.

This is well evidenced via the UNDP 's Human Development Index scoring for India that has been steadily increasing over the years. The average score for any country to be considered sound on its human development indicators is 0.630. However, the report also maintained there is a need for a lot of ground coverage since inequality has maintained a daunting challenge despite using a mixture of interventions that have been tried to undermine its potential risks<sup>iv</sup>. This is substantiated by the increased divide and lesser control over the country's wealth by majority of Indians<sup>v</sup>. Another challenge that has marred Indian growth story is the recalcitrant forms of poverty which covers two-thirds of Indians<sup>vi</sup>. However, instrumental development policies that have structurally tried to abate poverty helped in decreasing the poverty rate to 21%<sup>vii</sup>. Similarly, United Nations report on global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) stated that India had advanced on this frontier in the decade by and lifting out 271 million out of poverty. At the state level according to the NITI SDG Baseline Index, 2018 at least 9 states and 3 UTs are yet to reach the desirable scores for eliminating poverty despite containing 2 states and UT that have a combined GDP contribution of 25% (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi)<sup>viii</sup>. However, poverty being a complex construct containing hunger, deprivation, unemployment and other indicators. requires policy actions at multiple levels. Change in the status of one indicator can lead to fluctuation in estimation. This has been reflected across various data indices. After 2017 unemployment has witnessed a steady increase with manufacturing and construction sectors facing severe crisis<sup>ix</sup>. This is worrisome as there are 18.9 million jobless people in India compared to 18.6 million for 2018<sup>x</sup>.

Another factor that is composite of poverty is hunger. According to the Global Hunger Index, India fell 103<sup>rd</sup> position in the 119 country ranking<sup>xi</sup>. According to FAO estimates in 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2019' report, 194.4 million people are undernourished in India. By this measure 14.5% of the population is undernourished in India'. Evidently, these are the primary causes for increasing poverty. As such, there is a need to develop holistic policies that aim at reducing

unemployment and hunger in equal measure. Efforts are on way to tackle hunger and nefarious its effects with the National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Ayog.

**FIGURE 3**



*Source: United Nations Development Program, 2011-2018*

An increasing and consistent HDI is critical for maintaining the growth trajectory and achieve development outcomes on lines of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). India is increasingly moving towards increasing the human development quotient of many Indians. However, there are glaring gaps that need to be closed through concerted policy actions that qualitatively rooted at the ground level and deliver change at the micro level.

The Potential to GrowDriven by increased consumer spending, rapid urbanization and an educated middle class-India is the future goldmine for economic expansion. A consistent and upward GDP that maintained between 5-8% in the past 5 years, supplemented by incremental equity inflows reaching at US\$ 436.47 billion between April 2000 and June 2019 with labour force expected to touch 160-170 million by 2020-it is poised to overtake many developed countries. Importantly, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to reach US\$ 6 trillion by FY27 and achieve upper-middle income status set against the backdrop of digitization, globalization, favorable demographics, and reforms. Attention has also been prioritized towards maintaining strong macro-economic balances most notably inflation through prudent fiscal and monetary policies. Despite the lower share of manufacturing segment having Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic current prices at CAGR of 4.34 per cent during FY12 and FY18, emphasis is being oriented towards establishing suitable regimes and governance frameworks that promote exports and homegrown manufacturing<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Make in India*

# Health

The G20 has accorded special attention towards on health-related issues importantly- the Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) to develop an integrated and inclusive global effort. The health sector across countries also faces important challenges linked to demographic, epidemiological and nutritional transition, migration, climate change, outbreaks and other man-made emergencies. Concurrently, over 22% of the global population currently lives in fragile contexts where protracted crisis combined with weak national capacity to deliver basic health services present a significant challenge to global health. A significant number of countries still have facilities that lack basic sanitation requirements<sup>xii</sup>. India's progress on health is marred with challenges which have not been able to commensurately deliver on the outlined goals set by policymakers. Over the years, number of programs and schemes have been effectively deployed to tackle health related issues most importantly the National Health Mission (NHM) which encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs<sup>xiii</sup>.

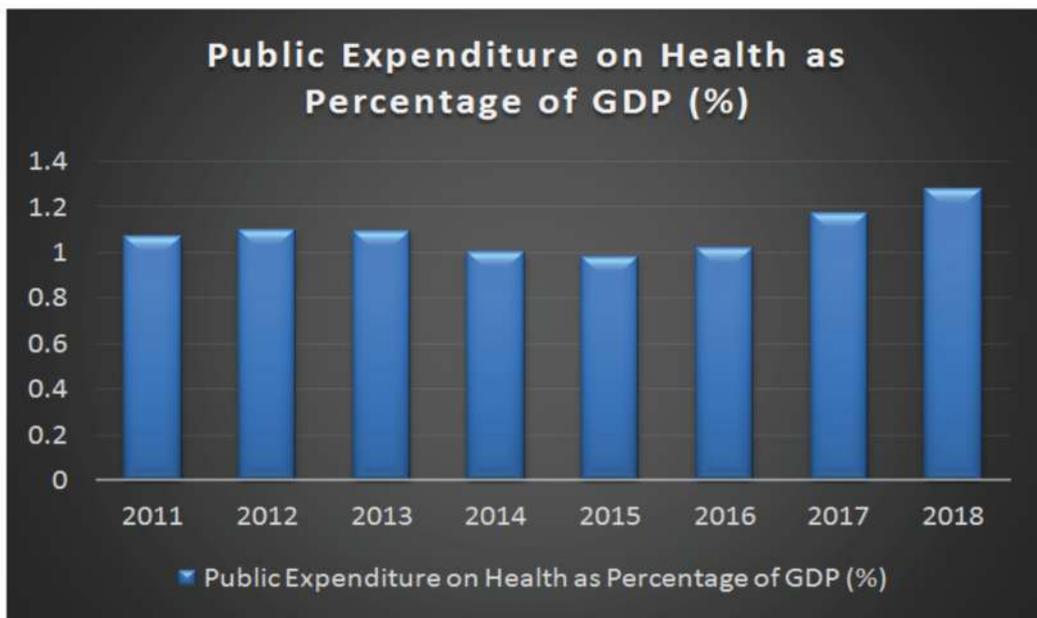
According to the National Health Profile Report, 2018 there are noteworthy improvements in health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR) due to increasing penetration of healthcare services across the country, extensive health campaigns, sanitation drives, increase in the number of government and private hospitals in India, improved immunisation, growing literacy etc. Initiatives such as *Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakarm*, *Janani Suraksha Yojana*, Reproductive, Maternal, New-borns, Child and Adolescent Health Services and national programmes to curb incidences of diseases such as polio, HIV, TB, leprosy etc have played pivotal roles in improving India's health indicators. Accessibility to healthcare remains a distant dream for many Indians mainly because of poor socio-economic conditions that play a huge impediment in treatment<sup>xiv</sup>. However, under the National Health Mission at least 10.33 lakh ASHAs across the country in rural and urban areas have been at the frontiers of ensuring accessibility by acting as a link between the community and the public health system. Share of non-communicable diseases such heart attack have registered a 50% increase over the period from 1990 to 2016, with the number of diabetes cases climbing from 26 million to 65 million. In the same period, the number of people ailing from chronic obstructive lung disease went up from 28 million to 55 million<sup>xv</sup>.

**FIGURE 4**

Key Statistics on India's Health Indicators	
Under five mortality rank	49
Underweight %, 2012 (severe)	42.5
Use of improved drinking water sources (%) 2011, total	91.6
Immunization coverage (%) 2012, BCG	87
People of all ages living with HIV (thousands) 2012, estimate	2100

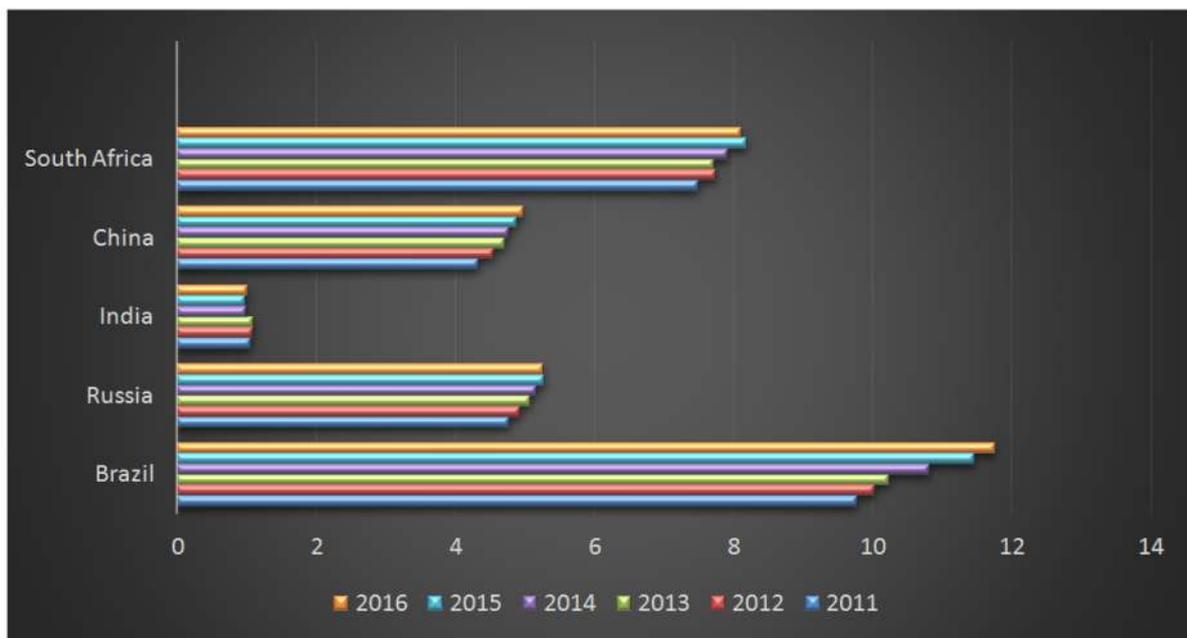
Source: UNICEF, 2018

**FIGURE 5**



*Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2018*

**FIGURE 7**



*Source: Author's compilation from different documents*

## **Correcting India's Health Deficits**

According to the WHO, to reach desirable levels of healthcare, a country should be spending at least 4-5% of GDP. As observed from the above India's healthcare has maintained a range of 1% of GDP. This is also reflected with the share of expenditure provided towards healthcare in BRICS countries for the 5 years period in figure 6. A series of seminal initiatives have been launched to close the healthcare gaps especially attain universal health coverage goal in India -

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States

Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) Delivery of comprehensive primary health care services through Health & Wellness Centres is a critical component of the newly announced Ayushman Bharat scheme. It places people and communities at the center of the health care delivery system, making health services responsive, accessible and equitable.

POSHAN Abhiyan leverages technology for children, adolescents, lactating mothers for augmented nutritional outcomes

Mission Indradhanush: Government of India has launched Mission Indradhanush (MI) in December 2014, a targeted programme to immunize children who have either not received vaccines or are partially vaccinated. The activity focuses on districts with maximum number of missed children.

## **Recommendations to Improve Healthcare Delivery in India**

Reconciling rural-urban inequalities considering there is a 63% difference in infant mortality rates and 44% difference in total fertility rates of rural and urban areas in India.

Devising innovative strategies to scale up interventions for non-communicable diseases.

Quality driven recruitment of human resources given the huge staffing and manpower problems.

Increasing and scaling community driven health centers for maximum reachability and outreach

Increasing the Health to GDP ratio in time driven manner to reach maximum health coverage by 2022

Introducing technology and innovation with usage of open and transparent data to track health outcomes

Increasing budgetary allocation in insurance schemes for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Having effective cohesion with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for qualitative data and utilizing their people-people strength for service delivery of important schemes.

# Education

The C20 in its communique outlined *that there is a strong need to invest to improve equity in education. This requires additional resources and increasing the national and education budget, consistent with international benchmarks (i.e. The Incheon Declaration). Investments should be made in infrastructure, teacher training and adequate pay, appropriate pedagogical methods supported by information and communication technology, and the creation of safe learning environments free from discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status<sup>xvi</sup>*. This was based on the context laid by the G20 in their leaders declaration that emphasized “*ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all*”. India's education scenario is currently being held back due to structural underlying factors. As per statistics by the Right To Education Forum there is a severe shortage of school infrastructure. The number of schools also decreases sharply beyond upper primary. In 2015-16, for every 100 elementary schools (classes I to VIII) in rural India, there were 14 schools offering secondary (classes IX-X) and only six offering higher secondary grades (classes XI-XII). It has not helped that so many secondary schools are privately-owned, fee-charging schools. At the elementary level, only 5% listed in the official statistics are private unaided schools while 40% schools offering secondary or higher secondary grades are private, unaided institutions. This increasing reliance on fees charging, private education at each successive level of education stacks the odds against girls' education and leads to dropouts. Other vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities are also adversely affected. There are only 1.16% of children with disability at primary level. 0.26% at secondary and 0.25% at senior secondary.

Gross secondary enrollment ratio 74.89 Gross higher secondary enrollment 49.88 Number of secondary schools 236793

**FIGURE 8<sup>xvii</sup>**

## KEY STATISTICS

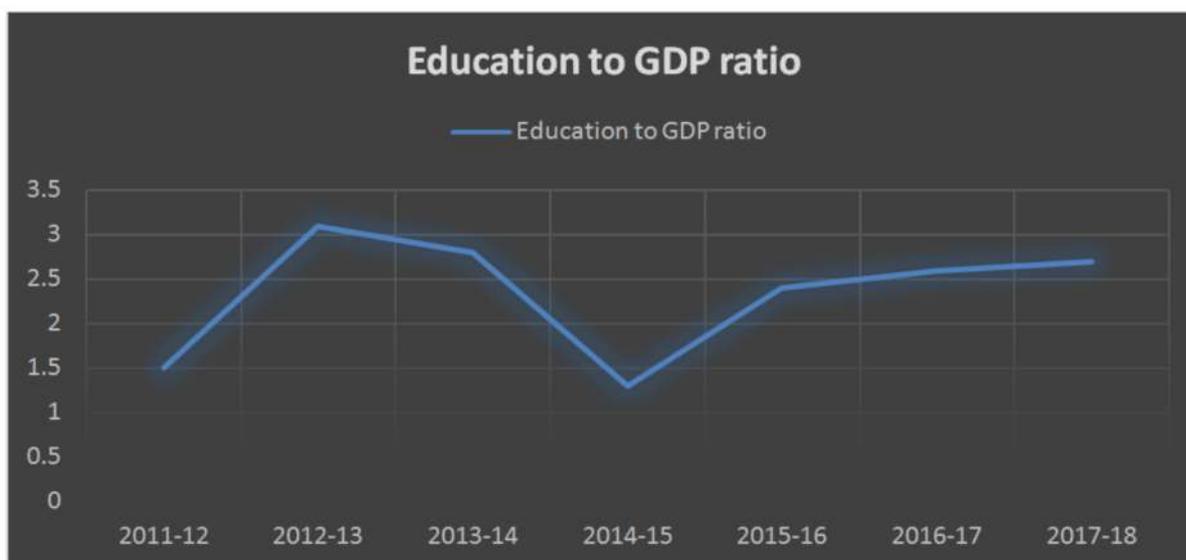
Status	DISE data 2016-17
Gross secondary enrollment ratio	79.35
Gross higher secondary enrollment	51.37
Number of secondary schools	260155

The ASER report released by Pratham<sup>xviii</sup> points to a decline in children not enrolled from about 4% at the beginning of the period to about 2% now. However, a steady increase in the number of children enrolled in private schools from about 20% to a little over 30% over the period. The report went further and addressed the quality issues emerging from the learning patterns<sup>xix</sup>. On the higher education front the report of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) as thrown some interesting insights-

Total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 37.4 million with 19.2 million male and 18.2 million female. Female constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India is 26.3%, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. GER for male population is 26.3% and for females, it is 26.4%. For Scheduled Castes, it is 23% and for Scheduled Tribes, it is 17.2% as compared to the national GER of 26.3%.

**FIGURE 9**



Source: Analysis of Budget Expenditure on Education 2011-16, Economic Survey 2018

**FIGURE 10**

Sector-wise Expenditure (Plan & Non Plan) on Education by Education Department (Revenue Account) with percentage share Centre and States/UTs 2016-17 (BE)						
(Rs.in crore)						
	Plan Expenditure	Plan %age share	Non-Plan Expenditure	Non- Plan %age Share	Total Expenditure	Total %age Share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Elementary Education	82069.25	57.90	147655.19	46.05	229724.44	49.68
Secondary Education	30067.52	21.21	114549.08	35.72	144616.60	31.28
Adult Education	852.23	0.60	371.59	0.12	1223.82	0.26
Language Development	517.11	0.36	1521.71	0.47	2038.82	0.44
University & Hr. Education	15714.65	11.09	43208.87	13.48	58923.52	12.74
Technical Education	11339.20	8.00	10572.37	3.30	21911.57	4.74
General Education	1193.09	0.84	2766.40	0.86	3959.49	0.86
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>141753.05</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>320645.21</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>462398.25</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Analysis of Budget Expenditure on Education 2016-17

## Offsetting the challenges in education

A series of initiatives have been launched by the Government of India in recent years, most notably the enactment of Right the Education (RTE) Act in 2010<sup>xx</sup> that guarantees 'free and compulsory' education to children in the 6-14 age group. From figure 10, considerable expenditure has been expended on elementary education, most notably because of the RTE. This has also reaped quantitative dividends in terms of increasing the enrolment in the upper primary level (Class 6-8). Nationally, between 2009 – 2016, the number of students in the upper primary level increased by 19.4 percent<sup>xxi</sup>. However, RTE's implementation has been encircled by several glaring qualitative constraints such as the lack of infrastructural facilities, gendered discrimination and under-staffing problems (at least 60% schools lack desirable levels of 1:30 teacher-pupil ratio)<sup>xxii</sup>.

For plugging these gaps, the government is introducing the National Education Policy (NEP) which seeks to address the challenges of: (i) access, (ii) equity, (iii) quality, (iv) affordability, and (v) accountability faced by the current education system. The NEP focuses on increasing the age limit of the current RTE limit to 3-18, restricting the educational timeframe on the basis of the development needs of students consisting of 5-3-3-4 design comprising: (i) five years of foundational stage (three years of pre-primary school and classes one and two), (ii) three years of preparatory stage (classes three to five), (iii) three years of middle stage (classes six to eight), and (iv) four years of secondary stage (classes nine to 12). Additionally, it has tried to introduce new governance to the education paradigm in India<sup>xxiii</sup>.

## Recommendations for improving education in India

India's share of budgetary expenditure is lowest among the BRICS countries and needs to be increased to 6% from the current meagre levels<sup>xxiv</sup>.

Implementation of RTE needs to be effectively strengthened through technologically driven trackers that take stock of educational status at the grassroots.

NEP should focus on restricting the age limit. As its current level of expenditure and ratio to GDP is very low out of which the maximum share is on elementary education. The increase will only make it difficult to reach the 6% target.

Making education a publicly funded and avoiding private investment given that this will increase inaccessibility especially for women, marginalized, vulnerable communities<sup>xxv</sup>.

Qualitative and behavioral outcomes should be prioritized with relevant methodology to measure their indicators. School Education Quality Index (SEQI) by NITI Ayog is an important tool which should be integrated in NEP.

Consultative and participatory exercises should be conducted regularly with Civil Society Organizations with a supportive environment for those involved in education sector at the grassroots.

# Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Intrinsic to developing efficient strategies to achieve sustainable development is the emergency to preserve environment and combat climate change and increase build a resource bank of clean energy. The G20 accounts for at least 80% of Green House Gases (GHGs) and have a crucial role and collective responsibility to fight climate change which is already negatively impacting on human rights and causing the loss of billions of dollars in infrastructure and livelihoods<sup>xxvi</sup>. The Inter-Governmental Panel Report on Climate Change recently noted that India stands to be greatly affected under the impact of 1.5 degree increase in global temperature mentioning the impact will disproportionately affect disadvantaged and vulnerable populations through food insecurity, higher food prices, income losses, lost livelihood opportunities, adverse health impacts, and population displacements. In its Intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change India aims to cut the country's emissions. However, there has been no real impact at the ground level with conducive environment for fossil fuel taking precedence before renewables and other clean energy fuels<sup>xxvii</sup>. India's total GHG emissions in 2014 were 3,202 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e), totaling 6.55% of global GHG emissions<sup>xxviii</sup>. Increasing fossil fuel usage is a growing cause of concern accompanied by man-made pollution, environmental degradation and a consistent damage to the economic and social paradigms. On the environmental front in its State of India's Environment Report, Center for Science and Environment, highlighted the following-

Air pollution is responsible for 12.5 per cent of all deaths in India. Over 100,000 children below the age of five die due to bad air in the country.

While India was one of the first countries to pledge the phasing out of non-electric vehicles, its national scheme to promote the sale of e-vehicles is yet to pick up. Against the target of 15-16 million e-vehicles by 2020, the country had 0.28 million vehicles till May 2019.

Surface and groundwater in the country are under stress. 86 water bodies are critically polluted. One of the reasons is the substantial increase (136 per cent) in the number of grossly polluting industries between 2011 and 2018. Groundwater is also reeling under overexploitation, which is running 94.5 per cent of all minor irrigation schemes in the country.

According to the Central Board for Pollution Control at least 35 Indian rivers are categorized highly polluted<sup>xxix</sup>. It is estimated that about 38,254 million litres per day (mld) of wastewater is generated in urban centres comprising Class I cities and Class II towns having population of more than 50,000 (accounting for more than 70 per cent of the total urban population)<sup>xxx</sup>. On the biodiversity front 8% of all recorded species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. Four of 34 globally identified biodiversity hotspots: The Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the North-East, and the Nicobar Islands, can be found in India<sup>xxxi</sup>. With global warming rising concerns across the world, there is a need to protect the biodiversity and ecology of India. Additionally, forests contribute to the livelihood of at least 256 million in India<sup>xxxii</sup>.

## Tackling Environment and Climate Change

India is taking considerable strides to tackle climate change and build a resilient and sustainable environment for the future.

- a) Reforming Energy Markets (Electricity Act 2005, Tariff Policy 2003, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006, etc.) involving: Removal of entry barriers in exploration, extraction, conversion, transmission and distribution of primary and secondary energy. Instituting price reform and tax reforms to promote optimal fuel choices. Providing feed in tariffs for renewable energy like solar, wind and biomass. Strengthening or introducing independent regulatio.
- b) New and Renewable Energy Policy, 2005: The policy promotes adoption of sustainable and renewable energy sources. It facilitates speedy deployment of renewable technology through indigenous design, development and manufacturing.
- c) Rural Electrification Policy, 2006: The policy promotes renewable energy technologies where grid connectivity is not possible or cost-effective.
- d) Biodiesel Purchase Policy: It mandates biodiesel procurement by petroleum companies.
- e) Ethanol Blending of Gasoline: The regulation mandates five percent blending of ethanol with gasoline from 1 January 2003 in nine states and four Union Territories.
- f) Energy Conservation Act, 2001: The legislation aims to reduce specific energy consumption in different sectors. It set up the specialized Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)<sup>xxxiii</sup>.
- e) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evem Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in the country. The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies<sup>xxxiv</sup>.

Taking a global leadership on building clean energy and reducing the growing burden of GHGs, it launched the ambitious International Solar Alliance-an intergovernmental organization that has identified five core areas to realize its clean energy mission- :

- 1) Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use;
- 2) Affordable Finance at Scale;
- 3) Scaling Solar Mini Grids;
- 4) Scaling Solar Rooftop, and
- 5) Scaling Solar in E-mobility and Storage<sup>xxxv</sup>.

The ISA has received widespread support from all over the world and hailed as a step towards clean energy<sup>xxxvi</sup>. This also a policy goal of Indian government to reach the 175 GW installed capacity. Following this, the cumulative renewable energy capacity has doubled from 2013-14 to 2017-18<sup>xxxvii</sup>. Concerted action has also been taken towards increasing afforestation efforts. This is visible via the recent forest cover of India that has increased by 6,778 sq km, a 1% increase<sup>xxxviii</sup>. To effectively manage water resources, real time tracking tools developed by the NITI Ayog such as the Composite Water

Management Index (CWMI) to are utilized to collect country-wide water data in India based on in-depth structured questionnaires followed by focus group discussions to generate qualitative information<sup>xxxix</sup>.

## Recommendations

An effort should be made towards increasing the subsidies for renewable and clean energy sources, with steady phase out on fossil fuel-based energy

Cross-linkage policies and programs introduced by the government need to be involved that can holistically deliver on critical environmental targets.

There must be consistent embedding and monitoring of following Environmental and Social Guidelines (ESG) among private sector to ensure compliance with environmental norms.

An effective strategy for reducing the perverse effects of ambient air pollution should be introduced. This must be worked in tandem with states. Currently the level of particulate matter 2.5 in Delhi and surrounding Northern region bears a direct relation with the decreasing lifespan<sup>xi</sup>.

Low carbon intensive technologies should be given adequate budget, R&D opportunities and favorable ecosystem to carry out innovation which will help India keep its pledge of cutting down 33-35% reduction in emissions associated with each unit of economic output by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. However according Carbon Brief report between 2014 to 2030 India's carbon emissions can increase by 90%<sup>xii</sup>.

India needs to come up with a robust strategy that advances upon increasing the carbon sink. Success in afforestation that has led to the increase in the forest cover is certainly applause-worthy however the structural lapses that give way to deforestation needs to be assessed through timely audits, environmental assessments and strengthening governance institutions.

Policy exploration with Civil Society, scientific institution should be searched and incorporated by municipalities to treat waste water and convert it into usable water.

Groundwater regeneration and freshwater conservation should be given ample budgetary support along with community level participation by involving civil society organizations to lead capacity building, awareness generation and policy consultation with local governance authorities.

State Acton Policy Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) need to assist farmers marginalized groups surviving on forest produce for livelihood and women through adaptive technologies<sup>xiii</sup>.

Ensuring the intactness of climate justice. Based on assessments of international organizations, NGOs-India's environmental patterns require stringency in law to hold faulters accountable to law.

Monetary support and recognition to Civil Society Organizations, involved in producing carbon minus and adaptive technologies at the grassroots. Currently CSOs face innumerable obstacles in interacting with policy makers on their social innovations. With lack of funding routes these innovations remain concentrated in local geographies and a handful of communities ultimately phased being out. As such, the government should support CSOs on such innovative practices.

# Gender

The G20 has been giving primary focus to gender equality as a crucial driver for economic growth and sustainable development by reaffirming their commitment to reduce the gender gap in labour market participation by 25 percent by 2025. The group of leaders have noted while affirming that “more needs to be done. Leaders also committed to “improve labour conditions for all” and “promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and gender-based violence<sup>xliii</sup>.” According to the World bank- Women make up 48 percent of the Indian population but have not benefitted equally from India's rapid economic growth. Female child mortality is still a grave concern, with over 239,000 girls under the age of 5 dying each year. Sixty-five percent of women are literate as compared to 80 percent of men. Importantly, India has amongst the lowest female labor force participation rates in the world<sup>xliv</sup>.

Despite rapid economic growth, less than a quarter (23.6%) of women aged 15 and above participated in the labor force in 2018 (compared to 78.6% of men)<sup>xlv</sup>.

India's low labor force participation rate for women is due in part to an increase in women continuing their education, the availability of flexible scheduling and the proximity of work locations<sup>xlvi</sup>.

Rural women are leaving India's workforce at a faster rate than urban women<sup>xlvii</sup>.

Women form an integral part of the Indian workforce. As per Census 2011, the total number of female workers in India is 149.8 million and female workers in rural and urban areas are 121.8 and 28.0 million respectively. Out of total 149.8 million female workers, 35.9 million females are working as cultivators and another 61.5 million are agricultural labourers. Of the remaining females workers, 8.5 million are in household Industry and 43.7 million are classified as other workers.

As per Census 2011, the work participation rate for women is 25.51 percent as compared to 25.63 per cent in 2001. The Work Participation Rate of Women has reduced marginally in 2011 but there is an improvement from 22.27 per cent in 1991 and 19.67 per cent in 1981. The work participation rate for women in rural areas is 30.02 per cent as compared to 15.44 per cent in the urban areas. In so far as the organised sector is concerned, in March, 2011 women workers constituted 20.5 percent of total employment in organised sector in the country which is higher by 0.1 percent as compared to the preceding year. As per the last Employment Review by Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T), on 31st March, 2011, about 59.54 lakh women workers were employed in the organised sector (Public and Private Sector). Of this, nearly 32.14 lakh women were employed in community, social and personal service sector<sup>xlviii</sup>.

The recently introduced Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during 2017-18, the overall Worker

Population Ratio for women in the age group of 15 & above was 22% whereas it stood at 23.7% in rural areas as compared to 18.2% in urban. The overall female Labour Force Participation Rate for the age group 15 & above status stood at 23.3% which comprised of 24.6% in rural areas as compared to 20.4% in urban areas. The overall unemployment rate for the female was 5.6% and the unemployment rate of female in rural areas was 3.8% and 10.8% in urban areas<sup>xlix</sup>. It has been suggested that increasing women's labor force participation by 10 percentage points could add \$770 billion to India's GDP by 2025<sup>l</sup>.

### **Closing the Gender Gap**

Measures have been taken by the government of India in recent years, to bridge the huge pay disparities prevalent in India. Some of these reforms have been noteworthy but most of them do not promote increasing the women employability in workforce.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination and also prevent discrimination against women employees while making recruitment of or the same work or work of similar nature, or in any condition of service subsequent to recruitment such as promotions, training or transfer. The provisions of the Act have been extended to all categories of employment<sup>li</sup>.

Amendment in Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to respond to the need for family and social policies aimed at reconciling work and family obligations, the Government has amended the Maternity Benefit Act 1961 in the year 2017 vide enactment of Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017 which inter-alia provides for increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks and provisions for facility of crèche in the establishments having 50 or more employees.

The Mines Act, 1952 looked towards ensuring the safety of women vide the central government vide notification dated 29th January, 2019 exempted the women employed in mines from the provision of section 46 of the Mines Act, 1952 and allowed deployment of women in the mine above ground including opencast workings between the hours of 7 PM to 6 AM and women employed in technical, supervisory and managerial cadre between 6 AM and 7 PM in any mine below ground, subject to obtaining written consent .

The Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare has been mandated that at least 30% of resources on programmes and activities are utilized for women farmers and women extension functionaries<sup>lii</sup>.

### **Recommendations for increasing gender participation in line with G20**

A huge gap in gender workforce is because majority of Indian women are primarily involved in the unorganized sector requiring women workforce to be adequately formalized through certain policy safeguards which ensures that they are entitled to benefits<sup>liii</sup>.



There must be holistic inclusion that allow gender mainstreaming in various employment programs of the government. The Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare has been instrumental in laying precedents and allocating budget support .

Open and Transparent data for analysis should be available for monitoring and tracking workforce criteria

Requisite capacity building and awareness generation on inclusion of women workers needs to be deployed through behavioral changes, attitudes etc.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) inputs should be critically utilized for data tracking and laying better policies that promote gender mainstreaming.

# Financial Architecture of India

Since its formation, the G20 has been focusing upon creating a global financial regime that reflects the aspirations of its member countries. Concurrent to this, The G20 have committed to enhancing transparency as a tool in the fight against illicit financial flows, by:

- (i) advancing beneficial ownership transparency of legal persons and trusts;
- (ii) implementing automatic exchanges of information, and
- (iii) considering defensive measures against jurisdictions that do not comply with international standards on tax transparency.

The G20 have committed to addressing the taxation of the digital economy and to working for a globally fair and modern international tax system, implementing the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Reports (BEPS Reports) and supporting developing countries in building their tax capacity. G20 summit commitments include regulating too big to fail banks and addressing the risks from shadow banking so that they cannot disrupt the financial system. The G20 agenda now focuses mainly on implementation and tackling related effects such as problems with remittances. To avoid over-indebtedness, the G20 has adopted the Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing. These commit G20 lenders to share more information with the IMF, but not media, parliaments and civil society. In 2019 the G20 is discussing measures to enhance debt transparency and ensure debt sustainability<sup>iv</sup>. In furtherance of financial reforms G20 is also expected to ensure that the banking sector, and the financial system, support sustainable societies and economies, and adapt to developing countries' financial priorities, including SDGs. India has been consistent in putting forward its agenda for ensuring prudent and facilitative global financial systems. Since 2011, it has sought to increase the bandwidth of cooperation in taxation information, raised concerns about tax evasions, mutual assistance mechanisms related to financial frauds etc. In continuance India signed the OECD's framework the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI) which enters into force for India on October 1, 2019, and its provisions will have effect on India's DTAs from FY 2020-21<sup>iv</sup>. Secondly, the G20 is expected to promote financial inclusive strategies. The growing financial exclusion has been an area which has adequately received support from the government in the form of designing inclusive policies such as the *Jan Dhan Yojana*, *Jan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity* etc. The Jan Dhan Yojana has been considered successful in terms of expanding the number of bank accounts which currently stand at 294 million. To accompany this, the Government of India has launched several electronic wallet systems through smartphone apps such as Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), Aadhaar Pay. On the front bringing economic fugitives to justice and ensuring stringent mechanisms to check bankruptcy that has potential to derail economic growth- an array of policies have been introduced such as the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

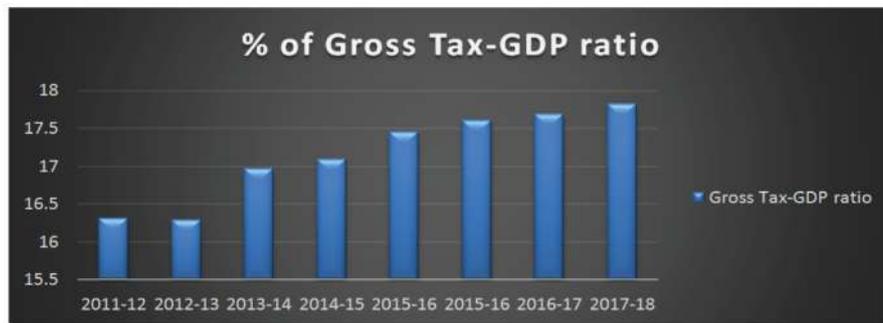
Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) indicate tax avoidance strategies which Multinational Corporations (MNCs) employ for reducing their tax bases. Typically, a company needs to pay tax for the incomes or profits they earn. In recent times, MNCs are developing sophisticated and refined tax planning practices to avoid tax by shifting their incomes/profits to other countries, especially to tax havens. Such practices erode the tax base.

**FIGURE 11: Indirect and Direct Tax Collections in Lakh Crores**

Years	Indirect tax Collections	Direct Tax Collections
2011-12	3.97	4.93
2012-13	5.05	3.90
2013-14	4.96	8.49
2014-15	5.46	6.96
2015-16	7.11	7.48
2016-17	8.05	8.47
2017-18	9.1	10

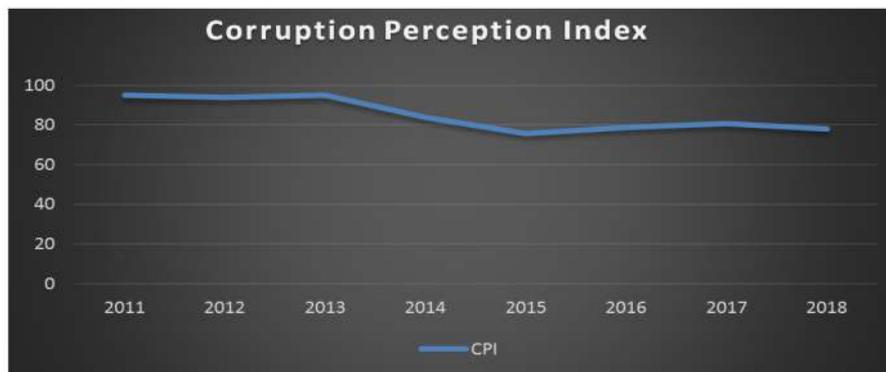
Source: PIB, 2011-18

**FIGURE 12**



Source: Various Sources

**Figure13**



Source: Transparency International, CPI data 2011-2018

## The need for increasing taxation and checking corruption

From figure 12 it can be easily discerned that there has been a progressive increase in the Tax to GDP ratio. However, the tax to GDP ratio in India does not meet the required benchmarks of 33% set by OECD<sup>lvi</sup> which is ideal for a widened tax base to support growth and development of a country. For example, a G20 country like France had the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in 2017 (46.2%). Even South Africa whose GDP and per capita was lesser than India had a Tax to GDP ratio of about 27%<sup>lvii</sup>. Taxes constitute an important component of revenue and the aforesaid ratio is a key indicator for assessing the ability of the government to invest in various development initiatives. India has had a comparatively low tax-to-GDP ratio due to low direct tax base<sup>lviii</sup>, parallel economy and unorganized sectors that adversely impacted tax collections. A direct inference drawn from the increase in the ratio visible after 2016 is advanced to be the result of the Goods and Service tax<sup>lix</sup> and compulsory tax disclosures to check circulation of black money<sup>lx</sup>. Both have been instrumental in mopping up indirect tax collections. In terms of combating corruption via legislations such as the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013<sup>lxi</sup> and Benami Transaction Act, 1988<sup>lxii</sup> have been enacted by the parliament. The annual Kroll Global Fraud Report notes that India has among the highest national incidences of corruption (25%). The same study also notes that India reports the highest proportion reporting procurement fraud (77%) as well as corruption and bribery (73%)<sup>lxiii</sup>. Additionally, constitutional offices such as the Comptroller and Auditor General ('CAG') and the Central Vigilance Commission ('CVC') play an important role due to Public Interest Litigations ('PILs') in India. As per data of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, India's rank has been improving that points to an increased sense of transparency being achieved in governance and administration.

## Recommendations for Strengthening Taxation and Combating Corruption

The Government needs to effectively build measures that will help boost the tax to GDP ratio.

Tax cuts and sops offered to corporate and private sector needs to be scaled down in tandem with burgeoning development priorities.

Reducing the incidence and burden of indirect tax as this directly affects the poor, marginalized and women communities

Having open and transparent database for monitoring the public financing of schemes which is easily usable at the grassroot level

Bringing more transparency in financial transactions by strengthening the Right to Information Act<sup>lxiv</sup> with effective grievance redressal and protection for whistleblowers at the local level.

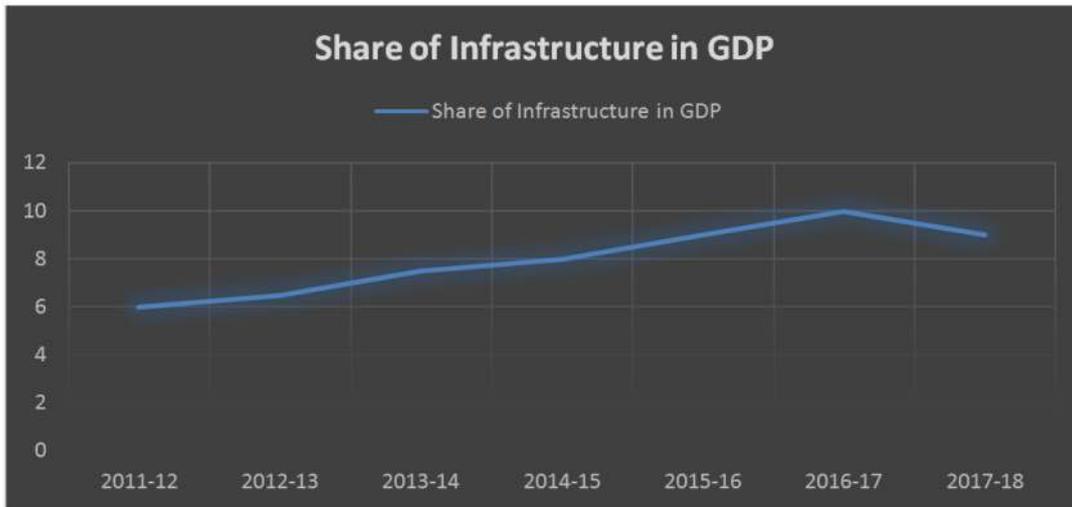
# Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure investment covers all aspects of physical and tangible services rendered through Transport, Information and Communication Technologies, Power and Electricity. Currently infrastructure investment faces a deficit of \$1.0 trillion–\$1.4 trillion per year (Bhattacharya and Romani, 2013) Physical infrastructure is essential for manufacturing, services, trade and even human capital, while rising incomes and rapid urbanization drive demand for electricity, transport, telecoms and housing. Infrastructure can also raise the quality of human capital, which is a key factor in our long-term growth models. Improvements in the quality and quantity of infrastructure have a disproportionately positive impact on the poor, and thus play a vital role in reducing income inequality. The World Bank estimates a 1% increase in infrastructure stock is associated with a 1% increase in GDP<sup>lxv</sup>.

At the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou, G20 leaders agreed to 'stress the importance of Quality Infrastructure investment (QII) which aims to ensure economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, safety, resilience against natural disaster, job creation, capacity building, and transfer of expertise and know-how on mutually agreed terms and conditions, while addressing social and environmental impacts and aligning with economic and development strategies<sup>lxvi</sup>'. It is widely recognized that QII is essential to delivering the SDGs, dealing with the impact of climate change and ensuring prosperity for all<sup>lxvii</sup>.

Currently India needs to spend 7-8 per cent of its GDP on infrastructure annually, which translates into annual infrastructure investment of US\$200 billion. However, India has been able to spend only about US\$100-110 billion annually on infrastructure, leaving a deficit of around US\$90 Billion per annum. Fiscal limitations impede the requirement for expanding public investment for which there is an urgent need to accelerate the flow of private capital into infrastructure. On the context, watershed initiatives have been launched most notably for boosting investment in infrastructure. One of them being the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) with a capital of approximately 400 billion to provide investment opportunities to commercially viable projects. As a bolster to this, a Credit Enhancement Fund (CEF) for infrastructure projects for increasing the credit rating of bonds floated by infrastructure companies is going to be launched in the country. A new Credit Rating System for infrastructure projects, based on Expected Loss approach, has also been launched which seeks to provide additional risk assessment mechanism for informed decision making by long-term investors. Further, measures like infrastructure investment trusts and Real Estate Investment Trusts have been formulated to pool investment in infrastructure<sup>lxviii</sup>. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in Construction Development sector (townships, housing, built up infrastructure and construction development projects) from April 2000 to March 2019 stood at US\$ 25.05 billion, according to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). The logistics sector in India is growing at a CAGR of 10.5 per cent annually and is expected to reach US\$ 215 billion in 2020<sup>lxix</sup>.

**FIGURE 15**



Source: 12th Five Year Plan, various sources

### **Infrastructure Financing: Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

Majorly private investment in infrastructure has come mainly in the form of PPPs. More than a third of the infrastructure investment in India in the past decade has come from the private sector. PPPs help in addressing the infrastructure gap as well as improving efficiency in infrastructure service delivery. As per the Private Participation in Infrastructure database of World Bank, India is ranked second among developing countries both by the number of PPP Projects as well as the associated investments. Indian private participation in infrastructure program supports a number of PPP models including management contracts, BuildOperate-Transfer (BOT) contracts, Design Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer contracts, Rehabilitate - Operate - Transfer, Hybrid Annuity Model, and Toll-Operate-Transfer model. Under the BOT model, there are two variants – BOT (Toll) and BOT (Annuity) depending on who bears the traffic risk. In the case of BOT (Toll), the traffic risk is borne by the PPP concessionaire while in the case of BOT (Annuity), it is borne by the Government (Public Authority)<sup>lxx</sup>.

### **Development Cooperation for Infrastructure**

Multilateral Development Banks have been instrumental in providing financial support for a variety of Indian infrastructure projects. India was the largest borrower from the World Bank for six of the last 10 years. Between 2009 and 2018, the bank provided assistance to India across sectors like road and power infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and disaster management worth \$9.3 billion<sup>lxxi</sup>. In India, the Asian Development Bank's portfolio for financing infrastructure amounted to a tune of \$9 billion, out of which a major share was towards Transport (40.7%) followed by Energy (22.2%) and Urban development (20%)<sup>lxxii</sup>. India also increased its cooperation with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which has ramped up its investments in India with total in-country financing now standing at USD2.9 billion<sup>lxxiii</sup>. Additionally, India and Japan have agreed for working together on developing infrastructure projects in the north-east for which Rs. 13000crore has been pledged<sup>lxxiv</sup>.

## Recommendations for effective infrastructure financing

In line with the recommendations on Quality Infrastructure Investment provided to the G20, there is an expectation from the government to integrate these principles in their governance and implementation policies.

India needs to scale its portfolio for infrastructure and has to close its gaps to achieve the target of \$5 trillion economy.

Given the incidence of pollution caused by mega-infrastructure projects, an environment and social safeguard needs to be developed on lines of internationally acceptable standards.

India requires a holistic framework for developing infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure is advanced on the financial viability to reap returns. However, there is a need to bring a people centric focus.

It is on this context that public financing for infrastructure should be increased. While private investment is welcome, there are likely chances that the ownership and usage may be restricted and not publicly accessible.

Additionally, there is always a possibility that private financing can lead to future risks and ultimately may fall into debt. Public finance in that case is secure and safeguards risk probability to assets.

Policies on infrastructure should be designed keeping in mind the positive spillovers it can generate for those in peripheries of infrastructure installation such as employment in operation and management of infrastructure

Most of the infrastructure developed and utilized falls into decadence, requiring constant upgradation and timebound auditing. Sometimes this infrastructure has the potential to cause environmental damage and potentially threaten local economy and livelihoods. As such proper consultations with civil society organizations and public is required.

At every stage of development, there is a requirement for embedding a gender and marginalized focus to avoid any unwanted exclusion.

Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols should be made mandatory in the process, designing and implementation phases of infrastructure projects

Focus of infrastructure projects should be oriented towards developing quality aspects that give long-term benefits and provide scalable solutions

Open and transparent data policy on procurements and contracts should be developed. There is strong potential for corruption to derail infrastructure projects and render them useless. This should be supplemented by disclosure policies that provide easy access to people in tracking projects in their vicinity

Lastly, Civil Society interaction on infrastructure must to be increased at the local, national and international level. While MDB interface with civil society is strong and robust, the same is missing at the national level.

## Conclusion

The G20 has been formulating grandiose narratives at the global level, however there is a huge area requiring astute coverage at the country level. India has been ambitiously striving for closing on various development gaps and expand the length and breadth of its development inclusivity vision<sup>lxxv</sup>. Yet there are many qualitative aspects of development schemes and programs that demand an urgent policy rectification, innovation and at times overhaul. It has repeatedly committed to a slew of measures that provide direction to its policy formulation albeit glaringly there is a disconnect with ground reality and cognizance of the underlying issues that hold back the potential of these very projects/programmes/schemes. An overzealous reliance has been placed on quantification without going into the nuances of the deficits that remain recalcitrant and show minimum urge to transform. In order to effectively reach targets and generate visible and long-lasting outcomes, a push must be made towards leverage of digital technology and wide usage of data for tracking and monitoring tool for analyzing behavioral patterns. Current levels of funding patterns need to be expanded to internationally recognized benchmarks. This has been a long-standing demand in education and health on which India currently underperforms. Majorly human resources and infrastructure require immediate scaling-up in order to reach ideal levels. Comparatively India's ratio to GDP on these two indicators fares low to BRICS nations. An emphasis must to also be placed on the quality of service rendered, mainstreaming gender in implementation, capacity building through civil society organizations and increasing research and development (R&D). A concerted effort must be made upon increasing the participation of women in workforce. Already there is 1/3rd women reservation in legislative and governance tiers. However, given the paucity of data, trends and projections on the level of gender exclusion in general employment cannot be mapped which necessitates the need to enforce legislation that promotes women participation. Equally important is the demand for providing a safe and harassment free environment in all forms of employment. The rising incidence of crimes against women point to a need to develop a strong legislation that impedes violence and harassment. Additionally, maternity linked infrastructure in employment needs to be embedded in all forms of employment. On the climate front, it was already clear at the Paris CoP in 2015 that the national climate targets (NDCs), in aggregate, were not enough to be consistent with the Paris Agreement's long-term 1.5°C temperature goal. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C made it very clear that there is no more time to rely on incremental steps. In the face of the climate crisis, significant, bold climate action is necessary. With delayed action already, global emissions need to be halved in ten years to meet the 1.5°C warming limit. As we have moved from climate change to a climate crisis to now climate emergency, bolder and bigger steps are required from all stakeholders. Determined and progressive steps will have to be taken to retract subsidies provided to fossil fuel companies and providing a suitable and favorable regime for new and renewable energy. Crucially linked to environment is the need to promote civil society and people led initiatives that are climatically resilient, economically viable and community driven. However, the lack of interactive mechanisms for interfacing and adopting these technologies at the national level have been a cause of concern. Government driven research institutes, policy drivers like NITI Ayog must pay heed to the local level innovations that have the propensity to avoid climatic crisis and protect environment at the micro level. With infrastructure being viewed as a driver of economic growth and employability-a organic linkage needs to be drawn in policy decisions that provides for sustainable, quality and environmentally infrastructure. To make infrastructure a unit prosperity must be supported via public financing. While private investment is necessary for bridging the funding gap, consistently it has been evidenced that large scale infrastructure can have deleterious effects over health, environment and ecology. With a majority share of GHGs produced by large-scale infrastructure a multi-

stakeholder approach should be incorporated in planning and implementation phases. Thus, in effect, this ensures that infrastructure is not commercially driven and caters to the socio-development facets. Public financing therefore forms an important instrument for investing in development initiatives. The G20, of course has been recommended time and again to stay steady on the pathway of expanding public finance via increasing the taxation base and implement OECD framework for checking BEPS. India's efforts on this direction are important however critical emphasis should be placed on increasing the tax base to desirable levels. Successive increase in direct tax should be accorded urgent primacy given its declining and minimal trend. With an increasing GDP and per capita income, there has to be positive, incremental co-relation between taxation and development. To ensure the prudence of taxation channelized towards socio-economic schemes, it is suggested that public disclosure of information and implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) be strengthened. Building on this the growing concerns of poverty and inequality need effective policy responses through timeframe set, result oriented actions. The growing divide between the rich and poor require an assiduous treatment that is mixed with macro-economic baselines and grassroot citizen-generated data. Civil Society Organizations have been instrumental in working on this aspect and have amplified challenges which hitherto remained far from the ambit of policy. Lastly, the Agenda 2030 is a blessing for India to move forward on its development journey. Because of its international acceptability and universality, it provides a time bound framework for realizing key objectives that propels India at par with the developed world. However, the necessity of linking grassroots to the global or 'Glocal' is an area that India should raise at the G20. An effort that will cement India's hold south-south cooperation by sharing of knowledge and learnings at the global stage. Overall, a conducive and meaningful partnership should be devised with Civil Society of India because of the expertise and knowledge resource bank it possess.

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## About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organizations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 540 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18, our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence-based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence-based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



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