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*About the photograph:
A skills center in Okhla,
New Delhi*

Photo by Jitendra Sharma

Sustained reforms help India jump 30 places in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2018

India for the first time moved into the top 100 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business global rankings on the back of sustained business reforms over the past several years. Last year the report had ranked India at 130.

Doing Business 2018: Reforming to Create Jobs report recognizes India as one of the top 10 improvers in this year's assessment, having implemented reforms in 8 out of 10 *Doing Business* indicators. India is the only large country this year to have achieved such a significant shift.

Doing Business 2018

Reforming to Create Jobs



On the “distance to frontier metric,” one of the key indicators in the survey, India’s score went from 56.05 in Doing Business 2017 to 60.76 in Doing Business 2018. This means last year India improved its business regulations in absolute terms – indicating that the country is continuing its steady shift towards best practice in business regulation.

The Doing Business project, launched in 2002, looks at domestic small and medium-size companies, across 190 economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level, and measures the regulations applying to them through their life cycle.

Developing countries carried out 206 reforms, accounting for 78 percent of the total reforms, with Sub-Saharan Africa implementing 83 reforms, a record for a second consecutive year for the region, and South Asia implementing a record 20 reforms. A large number of reforms centered on improving access to credit and registering a new business, with 38 reforms each, as well as facilitating cross border trade, with 33 reforms.



Source: Doing Business database.
Note: Labor market regulation is not included in the ease of doing business ranking.

In its annual ease of doing business rankings, New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark retained their first, second and third spots, respectively, followed by Republic of Korea; Hong Kong SAR, China; United States; United Kingdom; Norway; Georgia; and Sweden.

Consistency pays for India – reforms in 8 out of 10 areas this year

Marking its 15th anniversary, the report notes that India has adopted 37 reforms since 2003. Nearly half of these reforms have been implemented in the last four years. The report captures reforms in the period June 2, 2016 to June 1, 2017.

“Having embarked on a strong reform agenda to improve the business environment, the significant jump this year is a result of the Indian government’s consistent efforts over the past few years. It indicates India’s endeavor to further

strengthen its position as a preferred place to do business globally,” said Annette Dixon, Vice President, South Asia region.






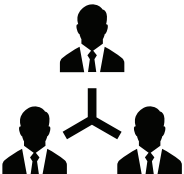


This year, the eight indicators on which reforms were implemented in Delhi and Mumbai, the two cities covered by the report are: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency (see the factsheet). Last year the Doing Business report recognized India for reforms in the areas of getting electricity, paying taxes, trading across borders and enforcing contracts.

India performs well in the areas of Protecting Minority Investors, Getting Credit, and Getting Electricity. The country’s corporate law and securities regulations have been recognized as highly advanced, placing India in 4th place in the global ranking on Protecting Minority Investors. And the time to obtain an electricity connection in Delhi has dropped from 138



Doing Business 2018 Fact Sheet: India

India implemented substantive changes in the following areas in 2016/17:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Starting a business: India made starting a business faster by merging the applications for the Permanent Account Number (PAN) and the Tax Account Number (TAN) and by improving the online application system. Mumbai also made starting a business faster by merging the applications for value added tax and the Profession Tax (PT).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dealing with construction permits: India reduced the number of procedures and time required to obtain a building permit by implementing an online system that has streamlined the process at the Municipality of New Delhi and Municipality of Greater Mumbai.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Getting credit: India strengthened access to credit by amending the rules on priority of secured creditors outside reorganization proceedings and by adopting a new law on insolvency that provides a time limit and clear grounds for relief to the automatic stay for secured creditors during reorganization procedures. This reform impacts the data for both Mumbai and Delhi.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Protecting minority investors: Protections for minority investors were strengthened by increasing the remedies available in cases of prejudicial transactions between interested parties. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Paying taxes: In both Delhi and Mumbai, paying taxes was made easier by requiring payments to the Employees Provident Fund to be made electronically, and introducing administrative measures that make it easier to comply with corporate income tax regulations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Trading across borders: In Mumbai, reducing the time taken to comply with import regulations at Nhava Sheva port made it much quicker to trade across borders. In Delhi and Mumbai, the elimination of merchant overtime fees and the increased use of electronic and mobile platforms reduced the time taken to comply with both export and import regulations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enforcing contracts: In both Delhi and Mumbai, the introduction of the National Judicial Data Grid made it possible to generate case management reports on local courts, thereby making it easier to enforce contracts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Resolving insolvency: India made resolving insolvency easier by adopting a new insolvency and bankruptcy code that introduced a reorganization procedure for corporate debtors and facilitated continuation of the debtor's business during insolvency proceedings. This reform applies to both Delhi and Mumbai.

days four years ago to 45 days now, almost 20 days less than the 78 days average in OECD high-income economies. India places in 29th place in the global ranking on the Getting Electricity indicator.

Challenges ahead

While there has been substantial progress, India still lags in areas such as Starting a Business, Enforcing Contracts, and Dealing with Construction Permits. In fact, the time taken to enforce a contract is longer today, at 1,445 days, than it was 15 years ago (1,420 days), placing the country in 164th place in the global ranking on the Enforcing Contracts indicator.

In Starting a Business, India has reduced the time needed to register a new business to 30 days now, from 127 days 15 years ago.

However, the number of procedures is still cumbersome for local entrepreneurs who still need to go through 12 procedures to start a business in Mumbai, which is considerably more than in OECD high-income economies, where it takes five procedures on average.

“Tackling these challenging reforms will be key to India sustaining the momentum towards a higher ranking. To secure changes in the remaining areas will require not just new laws and online systems but deepening the ongoing investment in the capacity of states and their institutions to implement change and transform the framework of incentives and regulation facing the private sector. India’s focus on ‘doing business’ at the state level may well be the platform that sustains the country’s reform trajectory for the future” said Junaid Ahmad, Country Director India. 



Pathways to Prosperity

Where you live decides how 'well' you live



Location and poverty are intimately linked. In India's rapidly transforming economy, where the boundaries between rural and urban have become increasingly blurred, living standards are much higher in 'good' locations, and much worse in places that are not so 'good'. In the years to come, creating more such 'good' locations, and spreading their prosperity to surroundings areas, will play a key role in raising incomes and reducing poverty in India, say Yue Li, an economist in World Bank's South Asia region and Martin Rama, World Bank's Chief Economist for the South Asia Region

Whether a household is poor or not depends not only on its assets, education and skills but also, importantly, on where it lives. Consider a 'typical' Indian household, which has four members and where the adults have less than nine years of education. Assuming this household is

also 'typical' in other respects, it would spend Rs. 8,121 per month if it lived in urban Maharashtra, but only Rs. 3,735 a month if it resided in rural Bihar. A part of this difference can be explained by the higher cost of living in urban Maharashtra. Nonetheless, a big part of



it can be attributed to the real difference in consumption levels between the two locations. One may think of this difference in consumption levels – 117 percent in this case – as the gain associated with living in a ‘good’ location.

It is however important to note that this clear distinction between urban and rural areas no longer exists in India. A decade ago India’s cities and countryside were truly different. Nowadays, the difference between urban and rural areas is mostly a matter of degree. While cities are expanding beyond their municipal boundaries, many once-rural areas are becoming denser and acquiring more urban characteristics. Today, as cities move to people as much as people move to cities, India’s rural-urban divide is being replaced by a rural-urban gradation.

In a recent paper, we explore how this messy urbanization affects the likelihood of a household being poor, and its living standards more generally. We use National Sample Survey (NSS) data from 2012 to compare patterns in living standards across four different types of locations along the rural-urban gradation, from small rural areas with a population of less than 5,000 to large urban areas with a population greater than one million. In all, we consider roughly 1,400 places spread across the 599 districts for which we have good data.

With this more granular spatial perspective, we find that the ‘typical’ Indian household could consume Rs. 13,554 per month in urban Gurgaon in Haryana, which has the highest consumption levels among all the 1,400 places considered. At the other extreme, a similar household in a small village in the Malkangiri district of Odisha would consume only Rs. 2,928. Seen from this more detailed standpoint, the difference in consumption levels rises to 362 percent.

Clearly, where a household lives matters. About half of the overall variation in consumption expenditure across places can be explained by differences in a household’s characteristics such as its ownership of assets, in its education and skills, and in its age composition – or how many working members there are in a household. But when we also take the household’s place of residence into account, nearly two thirds of this difference can be explained. This means that one third of the variation in per capita consumption in India is related, in one way or another, to the place where a household lives.

The analysis yields other insights too. First, it has now become difficult to tell the difference between large rural areas and small urban areas. And, that on average, small urban areas and large rural areas can support similar consumption levels.

It's not just where you live, but also near what you live that matters

It also appears that the 'best' places to live in India tend to be near each other. Clusters of such places are to be found in the northwest of India, along the western and southwestern coasts, and in India's northeast, towards Bangladesh. Among them are the agglomerations surrounding Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Puducherry, South Goa and Thiruvananthapuram.

Some of these clusters are huge. For example, the one around Delhi spreads across 60 districts, spanning seven of India's northwestern states and Union Territories. Similarly, the cluster around Thiruvananthapuram spans 19 districts across the three southern states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Although generally, urban India tends to have higher consumption levels than rural areas, there are some surprises. Interestingly, it is not only large urban areas which display the highest gains in living standards. In fact, many of the best places to live and work are secondary towns, and some of them are still administratively rural. What makes these 'good' rural locations special is that they lie in the catchment area of some of the best locations in the country. Seen this way, what matters for a household is not just 'where' it lives, but also 'near what' it lives.

Some 'good' locations spread their prosperity more than others

However, all the 'good' locations do not spread their prosperity around them evenly. For instance, both Bangalore and Delhi are among India's top locations. Between them, Bangalore enjoys a slightly higher gain in living standards than Delhi, arguably making it a better city to live and work in. But Delhi spreads its benefits more widely, doing substantially better than Bangalore in the extent of its impact on surrounding areas. In Delhi's case, the gain in living standards is still high up to 200 km away from the core of the city, while in Bangalore it almost vanishes just 100 km from the city centre. We do not

know for sure why this is so, but the issue certainly warrants further research.

The 'least good' places to live and work are concentrated in the centre of India, where the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Orissa meet. A number of such places can also be found in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, along the Ganga basin. Surprisingly, most of them do not fall in the rural parts of these states, but rather in small urban areas.

Tribal populations live in some of the most disadvantaged places



Last but not least, paying attention to the places where people live changes our interpretation of the key determinants of poverty. One of the most dramatic changes concerns our understanding of why some social groups are poorer than others. For instance, a tribal household consumes 23 percent less than a household from the general category that is otherwise identical. But when the place of residence is taken into account this gap falls to 13 percent.

In other words, a superficial analysis would suggest that poverty among tribals is related to their socio-economic characteristics. On the other hand, our spatial analysis suggests a key reason why tribal populations are poor is because they live in some of the most disadvantaged places in the country. 🌐

Reference:

Li, Yue and Martin Rama (2015) "Households or Locations? Cities, Catchment Area and Prosperity in India." Policy Research Working Paper 7473, World Bank, Washington DC.

This blog was originally published in the Indian Express on 28th June, 2016

Triple Helix of Innovation

Most research and development (R&D) budgets focus on developing drugs that fetch high returns. This leaves the diseases that afflict the developing world with few takers. India is well-placed to fill this gap, say Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director, India and Albert Sole, Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank

As the monsoon gathers pace, civic authorities are gearing up to deal with the spectre of malaria, chikungunya and an assortment of other maladies. Yet, while two-thirds of the world's people are at risk from these and other debilitating diseases, no vaccines have yet been developed to prevent them.

Even where vaccines exist — such as for dengue and the human papilloma virus, the precursor of cervical cancer — they don't target the strains prevalent in India. Or they are prohibitively expensive. Since it costs an average of \$800 million to bring a single new drug to market, most R&D budgets focus on developing drugs that fetch high returns. This leaves the diseases that afflict the developing world with few takers.

India is well-placed to fill this gap. Two key strengths have enabled India to reach its pinnacle position as the world's largest manufacturer of high quality generic medicines and vaccines.

India's academia has established a strong base in scientific research that helps identify potential new drugs. The private sector too has mastered reverse-engineering drugs and vaccines freed from patent protections.

But these strengths alone will not be enough to take the country forward. Today, rapid advances in genetics, nanotech and biotech are revolutionising the fundamentals of the industry.

A whole new era of discovery and innovation lies before us. But before India can capitalise



on its potential, it will need to work on its key weaknesses. Today, too many promising leads fail to make it to market because of the missing link between discovery and development.

Since neither the public nor the private sector can go it alone in such a complex, high-cost, high-risk environment, a bridge will need to be created between academia, industry and government — the triple helix of medical innovation.

In the US, early stage incubators at universities such as Stanford, Cornell, MIT and Harvard serve as hubs for the development of new drugs and medical devices. After this, the country's vibrant venture capital market takes the prototypes forward.

Its investment in startups helps validate the prototypes for efficacy, safety and consistency, and takes the product to the market. In Israel and South Korea, government-led initiatives draw in the private sector, and large pharma companies take the pioneering work of small industries forward.

India, too, is now seeking to strengthen this value chain. Five years ago, Gol set up the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (Birac)** with this explicit purpose.

Since then, Birac has supported a number of startups, and fostered collaboration within the biopharma innovation ecosystem. Birac is now focused on promoting a

more collaborative R&D environment and leveraging the expertise of local and international players, from both the public and private sectors, to take the industry forward.

Specifically, Birac aims to foster talent in research and nurture next-generation technical skills among scientists, researchers and others across the different stages of product development. It also seeks to improve the success rate of promising leads, accelerate the development of new products, and equip the industry to carry out the full spectrum of validation activities.

Clinical trials are currently a critical bottleneck. It will be important to provide companies with advanced shared facilities to conduct these trials, link clinical trial units with networks of expert advisers and international bodies so that they comply with the best global standards, and strengthen all the institutions involved in the adoption of global innovations, technologies and licensing models.

Recently, the World Bank joined hands with Birac to help scale up its efforts across the industry. Initiatives such as this, in which an industry goes beyond 'Make in India' to 'Innovate in India', will hopefully pave the way for private investors to follow, and raise the industry's long term competitiveness. 🌐

This opinion piece was originally published in the Economic Times on 8th September, 2017.



ICR Update

This is a short summary of the Implementation Completion Report (ICR) of a recently-closed World Bank project. The full text of the ICR is available on the Bank's website. To access this document, go to www.worldbank.org/reference/ and then opt for the Documents & Reports section.

Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project



Context

In rural Punjab, public water utilities were poorly managed. Even though they were accessible to more than 80 percent of households in the state, poor performance led households to access drinking water from shallow bore wells, which were highly susceptible to bacterial pollution from poor sanitation conditions. Sixty percent of households did not have latrines and sanitation facilities were generally septic tanks with effluent flowing directly into open drains, resulting in degradation of the village environment and pollution of village ponds. Limited institutional, operational and financing arrangements, made long-term sustainability of public schemes difficult. Moreover, the capacity at local government level was inadequate and new schemes were planned and built with little participation from beneficiaries.

Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	
Approval Date:	14 December, 2006
Closing Date:	31 March, 2014
Total Project Cost	US\$ 261.4 million
Bank Financing:	US\$ 126.4 million
Implementing Agency:	Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of Punjab
Outcome:	Moderately Satisfactory
Risk to Development Outcome:	Low or Negligible
Overall Bank Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Borrower Performance:	Moderately Satisfactory

To tackle these issues, the Government of Punjab (GoP) developed an ambitious vision to cover all habitations in Punjab with individual household water connections with modern waste water collection and disposal systems.

Project Development Objectives

The objective was to assist the Government of Punjab to provide rural communities with increased access and sustainable rural water supply and sanitation services.

Achievements

Out of the 3,000 habitations targeted, 5,335 habitations were reached, achieving 178 percent of the target. By the time the Project ended, close to 99 percent of habitations were covered by public water supply (88 percent with supply levels exceeding 40 liters per capita per day, and 11percent supplying less than 40 liters per capita per day).

In addition to extending access, the Project made substantial efforts in demonstrating increased levels of service that was not explicitly part of the project design. These levels of service (10 and 24 hours of supply per day, 100 percent household connections, 100 percent metering) were notable firsts for the rural water supply sector in the state, and for the country, and provided a strong demonstration of the applicability of improved service levels in the rural context.

The Project targeted individual household connections over public stand-posts. Piped household water connections increased by more than 300 percent, from 77,089 to 310,824 connections over the Project period. In 492 habitations, 100 percent household connections were achieved.

The Project has made extensive efforts to increase metering of household connections and 335 habitations were fully metered and are charging volumetric tariffs.

The Project constructed 98 sewerage collection and treatment systems on a pilot basis out of the 100 that were targeted. Of these, 97 were reported to be performing well. Sewerage schemes benefitted 20,700 households or approximately 109,710 beneficiaries.

By ensuring the direct participation of gram panchayats in planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of the schemes, the Project is believed to have played a transformational role in the decentralization agenda of the state.

The Project created an enabling institutional structure for a demand responsive approach across the state and for post-implementation monitoring and support by strengthening the gram panchayats, the village water and sanitation committees, and the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation.



Lessons Learnt

- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD) recognized as a critical function to deliver community driven rural water supply and sanitation services. These functions need to be well resourced with staff, vehicles and technical support to strengthen community commitment to project activities, empower communities to consider alternative options, institute performance improvement, ensure sustainability and inclusion in service provision. The use of peer learning mechanisms, like exposure visits and the development of role model villages worked effectively to demonstrate the viability of higher service levels and generate greater demand in other habitations. There is a need to strengthen monitoring, reporting and evaluation,



including consumer research, to get the best out of IEC interventions.

- **Capacity building of Gram Panchayat Water and Sanitation Committee's (GPWSC)** is an ongoing activity to ensure sustainability and requires greater institutionalization. For GPWSCs to work well they require strong leadership, a

strong sense of ownership and at least three to four people to actively participate. In addition, GP elections take place every five years and there is a need to educate new committees when they are elected. Professionalizing the functions of the GPWSCs for operating and maintaining schemes can create a professional market for these skills and secure continuity in times of political change.



- **Gender inclusiveness.** Punjab requires more specifically designed interventions to ensure gender inclusiveness. Despite the high per capita income in Punjab, gender inequality remains high and there is a need for more specialized gender interventions, specifically in the context in Punjab.
- **An effective institutional structure for long-term sustainability.** The presence of a government department with the specific mandate for rural water supply and sanitation service provision provides the opportunity for sound technical backstopping to communities, especially in the O&M stage, to ensure sustainability of schemes, and the opportunity to improve sector monitoring and evaluation to develop an evidence base for future policy development. 🌐

Interview

“The attempt under this Project was to create the capacity in the public health system to identify and treat patients suffering from non-communicable diseases right at the primary health center level”

Non-communicable diseases are sweeping the entire globe. India is no exception. Many parts of India are experiencing a growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and different cancers while still grappling with an array of infectious diseases such as malaria, chikengunya and dengue, which account for a large portion of the people getting sick if not treated on time. The challenge for India is to implement appropriate prevention strategies to halt the growing double burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases.

The health delivery system must be reorganized. Patients with non-communicable diseases typically require care over a longer time, with clinical management starting at a primary care setting, said Jorge Coarasa, World Bank's Senior Health Economist in an interview with World Bank's communication team. [Excerpts.](#)

Question: *Could you highlight the key objectives of a recent pilot initiative that the World Bank supported in Karnataka to tackle the growing burden of non-communicable diseases?*

Answer: The key objective of the Project in Karnataka was to bring screening for non-communicable diseases to the Primary Health Center (PHC) level. The interventions in the two districts, Dakshina Kannada and Davangere in Karnataka were on creating non-communicable disease clinics at all the three levels – at the district hospital, community health center, and the primary health center. The screenings were for hypertension, diabetes and for cervical cancer. The Accredited Social Health Activists, popularly known as Ashas were given the task to enumerate everyone in the population and not just people with symptoms and encourage them to get screened at either the Primary Health Center (PHC) or at the Community Health Center (CHC) or at a district hospital as per their convenience. For people who were confirmed positive and needed to be treated at the district hospital, Asha's accompanied them to the hospital for further tests and treatment, while the rest of the cases were treated and managed at the PHC level.

Question: *How successful was the Project in setting up systems for tracking and follow-ups?*

Answer: People were provided a unique registration number at the PHC that could be tracked both at the CHC and at the district hospital. The staff was trained for providing diagnosis, counselling and follow-up. The attempt was to create the capacity in the public health system to find patients who needed treatment rather than waiting for patients to come when they became sick; diagnose, counsel and refer patients to the district hospital as required and follow-up with patients to make sure they were not only diagnosed but that their disease was either cured or was brought under control.

Question: *What were the main achievements of the Project in the two districts?*

Answer: When we compared the pilot initiative to what was prevalent in other district hospitals, we found that many more patients were screened in the two pilot districts. Some 48,851 people were screened for cervical cancer alone, 859,827 for hypertension, and 727,597 for diabetes. The Project successfully screened about 1.6 million people from the target group and diagnosed about 150,387 people who needed treatment and management. About 88 percent of the target population screened for diabetes, hypertension and cervical cancer were treated and regular follow-ups were conducted for effective management.

This simply meant that a lot more people were aware of their health status, more people were put on treatment and hopefully more people did change their behavior that will allow them to stay healthy.

Question: *What were the challenges the team faced during the course of the Project?*

Answer: There were several bumps on the way. For example, many women got screened for cervical cancer and were found to be “presumptive positive”, which meant they had to be referred to a higher level facility for treatment. Unfortunately, while they were screened and referred they did not go to the health facility for a confirmation and treatment. There could have been several reasons including cultural and social norms that prevent women from taking further action.



We also found that even while the Project was able to equip the community health centers and the district hospitals to treat cervical cancer and obstetricians were trained to perform the procedure, women referred to district hospitals were further referred to medical colleges or other facilities because either the obstetrician was not available or the obstetrician did not feel confident to perform this new procedure or he was a man and the woman did not feel comfortable with a male obstetrician

performing the procedure. You see it goes beyond training, equipment and infrastructure. There is a need for a lot of behavior change not only on the part of the patients but also in the frontline workers who are supposed to treat these diseases.

Question: *Does the World Bank have a plan to extend the initiative to other states?*

Answer: We have an ongoing policy dialogue with the national program on non-communicable diseases. These pilot initiatives are not only informing the state governments but also the central ministry of health and the national program on non-communicable diseases.

In the upcoming state projects on health, non-communicable diseases will definitely figure prominently. Already in Uttar Pradesh we are working with King George Medical University in Lucknow in assessing the capability of the public health facilities in various districts to deal with non-communicable diseases. We are at the moment taking stock of the total number of specialists in Uttar Pradesh, the number of labs and assessing what would it take to introduce a systematic response to non-communicable diseases in the state. Similarly, our health projects in Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Karnataka are better informed by this experience. We are also discussing the potential for a follow-on project in Karnataka which will take this pilot initiative to the next level. For the World Bank, working on non-communicable diseases are a big part of our agenda in India. 🌐

Recent Project Signings

Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence and Equity Project



The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$119 million loan agreement for the Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence and Equity Project. The Project will support the Government of Odisha in improving the quality, equity and governance of higher education institutes in the state.

The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; G.V.V. Sarma, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, on behalf of the Government of Odisha; and Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank.

Government, government-aided, and block grant colleges that have an accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) are eligible to apply for grants under the Project. Their Institutional Development Plan (IDP) will be evaluated by a committee comprising eminent academics from inside and outside the state.

The first round of selection has already begun and the committee has selected 70 colleges

and six state universities based on their IDPs. Another 70 will be selected in the second round which will commence after 12 to 18 months. The remaining about 660 colleges that do not receive the institutional grant will directly benefit from a faculty development program and the anticipated governance reforms.

In all, about 630,000 higher education students and about 21,000 faculty staff and 11,000 administrative staff at the colleges and universities will benefit from the Project. 🌐


Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$200 million loan agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project.

The Project will support the Government of Assam to facilitate agri-business investments, increase agriculture productivity and market access, and enable small farm holders produce crops that are resilient to recurrent floods or droughts in the state.



The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; Ravi Kota, Principal Secretary, Finance, Government of Assam; and Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank.

The Project will be implemented in over 16 districts of Assam. Over 500,000 farming households will directly benefit and at least 30 percent women are expected to participate in project activities. Specific focus will be given to women-led enterprises and their participation in the decision-making process of farmer producer organizations. 

National Agricultural Higher Education Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$82.50 million loan agreement for the National Agricultural Higher Education Project.

It will support the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and participating agricultural universities in providing more relevant and better quality agricultural higher education to students.

The agreement for the project was signed

by Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India; and Sumila Gulyani, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, on behalf of the World Bank.

The project will target 75 institutions, consisting of state agricultural universities (63), deemed universities (five), central universities with agricultural faculty (four), and central agricultural universities (three). 



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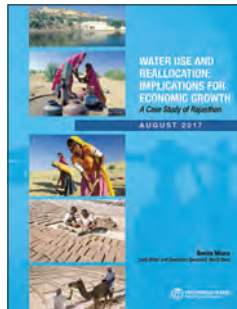
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India Publications

Water use and reallocation implications for economic growth: A case study of Rajasthan



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English Version. Paperback
Report No.: 120421

The study analyzes whether Rajasthan can achieve its economic growth targets with its available water

resources and current water allocation pattern. It looks at water use in agriculture, domestic and industrial (including power) sectors of Rajasthan. It identifies the water allocation patterns in different sectors and calculates the water intensity in each of these sectors. It brings out the constraints that the available water may pose towards achieving the economic growth targets of the state and suggests various strategic options and interventions that policy makers may consider to meet the economic growth target.

South Asia Publications

Migrating to opportunity: Overcoming barriers to labor mobility in Southeast Asia



By Mauro Testaverde,
Harry Edmund Moroz,
Claire Honore Hollweg and
Achim Daniel Schmillen

Available On-line
Published October 2017,
pages 337

English Version. Paperback
ISBN 978-1-4648-1106-7

The movement of people in Southeast Asia is an issue of increasing importance. Workers move throughout Southeast Asia in search of economic opportunities.

This book highlights how mobility affects the well-being of workers, the constraints workers face when migrating for better opportunities, and the solutions to ease these constraints. The diversity of economic development in Southeast Asia means that there are ample opportunities for workers to seek out better jobs that pay higher wages.

The book documents why workers are not always able to take advantage of these opportunities, what is lost when they are not able to take advantage of them, and potential policies that will expand their access to them.

India: Policy Research Working Papers

WPS 8207

Measuring the effectiveness of service delivery: Delivery of government provided goods and services in India

By Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Leora Klapper and Neeraj Prasad

This paper uses new survey data to measure the government's capacity to deliver goods and services in a manner that includes: high coverage of the population; equal access; and high quality of service delivery.

The paper finds variation in these indicators across and within Indian states. Access to government provided goods and services is low — about 60 percent of the surveyed population are unable to apply for goods and services; inequality in access is high — women and poor adults are more likely to report an inability to apply for goods and services they need; and less than a third of the respondents who did manage to apply for a government delivered good or service found the application process to be easy.

WPS 8205

Making it easier to apply for a bank account: A study of the Indian market

By Asli Demirguc-Kunt, Leora Klapper, Saniya Ansar and Aditya Jagati

This paper draws on new individual-level survey data from India to study the costs of opening an account and the efficiency of the account application process. The data show a recent increase in account ownership, especially by women and poor adults. The data also suggest that India's flagship financial inclusion program, the Jan Dhan Yojana scheme, has made it easier to get an account, through lower costs and greater ease of applying. Yet despite the scheme's initial successes, people who wish to apply for an account continue to incur a range of costs.

The survey results suggest several recommendations that could improve the account application process and increase ownership and usage of accounts.

WPS 8204

How does port efficiency affect maritime transport costs and trade? Evidence from Indian and Western Pacific Ocean countries

By Matias Herrera Dappe, Charl Jooste and Ancor Suarez Aleman

Would improvements in port performance increase trade in countries on the Indian and Western Pacific Oceans? This paper builds a measure of economic efficiency based on the use of port inputs to deliver port output. Using data envelopment analysis, it ranks countries on the Indian and Western Pacific Oceans in terms of their port efficiency, and assesses the effect of increased efficiency. It finds that becoming as efficient as the country with the most efficient port sector would reduce their average maritime transport costs by up to 14 percent and increase their exports by up to 2.2 percent.

WPS 8197

Flies without borders: Lessons from Chennai on improving India's municipal public health services

By Monica Das Gupta, Rajib Dasgupta, P. Kugananthan, Vijayendra Rao and et.al.

This paper explores the management of municipal public health services in two major Indian metropolises with sharply contrasting health and sanitation indicators. The paper explains how Chennai mitigates these challenges through active service outreach to vulnerable populations, and a considered approach to devolution that distributes responsibilities appropriately between line agencies, technical personnel, and elected representatives. Services in Delhi are quite constrained. These policy lessons are pertinent to other Indian cities and beyond.

WPS 8185

A bit far? Geography, international economic agreements, and foreign direct investment: Evidence from emerging markets

By Laura Gomez-Mera and Gonzalo J. Varela

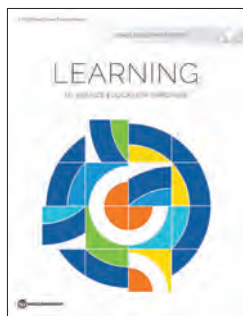
This paper studies the ways in which bilateral investment treaties and preferential trade agreements interact with geographic and cultural distance to influence firms' investment patterns. How does geographic and cultural proximity affect the impact of international economic agreements on foreign direct investment flows? This question is answered using data from an original survey of 700 firms from four emerging (or newly-emerged) economies: Brazil, India, the Republic of Korea, and South Africa.

The findings suggest that bilateral investment treaties and preferential trade agreements increase the likelihood of foreign direct investment. Yet, the effects of these

agreements on foreign direct investment depend on the distance between the origin and potential destination countries.

India Publications

World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise



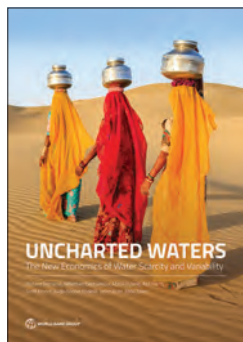
By the World Bank
Available On-line
Published October 2017,
pages 234
English Version. Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-1096-1

Every year, the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) features a topic of central importance to global

development.

The 2018 WDR—LEARNING to Realize Education's Promise—is the first ever devoted entirely to education. Education has long been critical to human welfare, but it is even more so in a time of rapid economic and social change. The best way to equip children and youth for the future is to place their learning at the center.

Uncharted Waters – The New Economics of Water Scarcity and Variability



By Richard Damania,
Sébastien Desbureaux,
Marie Hyland, Asif Islam
and et.al.
Available On-line
Published October 2017,
pages 101
English Version. Paperback.
ISBN (print): 978-1-4648-
1179-1
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-
4648-1180-7

This report presents new evidence to advance understanding on how rainfall shocks coupled with water scarcity, impacts farms, firms, and families.

On farms, the largest consumers of water in the world, impacts are channeled from declining yields to changing landscapes. In cities, water extremes especially when combined with unreliable infrastructure can stall firm production, sales, and revenue. At the center of this are families, who feel the impacts of this uncertainty on their incomes, jobs, and long-term health and welfare. Pursuing business as usual will lead many countries down a “parched path” where droughts shape destinies.

A key message of this report is that water has multiple

economic attributes, each of which entail distinct policy responses. If water is not managed more prudently—from source, to tap, and back to source—the crises observed today will become the catastrophes of tomorrow.

Trouble in the Making? The Future of Manufacturing-Led Development



By Mary Hallward-Driemeier
and Gaurav Nayyar
Available On-line
Published October 2017,
pages 184
English Version. Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-1174-6

Throughout history, lower-income countries have relied on manufacturing, which provides jobs

for unskilled workers, helps increase productivity, and drives economic growth, as a central driver of development. However, success in manufacturing and global value chains is currently concentrated in a limited number of countries. In 2015, 55 percent of the world's manufactured goods were produced in high-income countries.

This book examines the impacts of new technologies, rising international competition, and increased servicification on manufacturing productivity and employment.

The Innovation Paradox: Developing-Country Capabilities and the Unrealized Promise of Technological Catch-Up



By Xavier Cirera and William F. Maloney
Available On-line
Published October 2017,
pages 192
English Version. Paperback
ISBN: 978-1-4648-1160-9

Economists have long argued that developing countries have the potential for high productivity growth

if they adopt existing technologies and apply them to the local context.

This report brings to bear a battery of new data sources to explore the innovation “paradox”: despite the potential for very high returns, developing countries invest far less in adopting and inventing new processes and products than advanced countries.

Open and Nimble: Finding Stable Growth in Small Economies



By Daniel Lederman and Justin T. Lesniak
Available On-line
Published October 2017, pages 135
English Version. Paperback
ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-1042-8
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-1043-5

Does economic size matter for economic development outcomes? If so are current policies adequately addressing the role of size in the development process?

Using working age population as a proxy for country size, *Open and Nimble*, systematically analyzes what makes small economies unique. Small economies are not necessarily prone to underdevelopment and in fact can achieve very high income levels.

Small economies, however, do tend to be highly open to both international trade and foreign direct investment, have highly specialized export structures, and have large government expenditures relative to their Gross Domestic Product. The export structures of small economies are concentrated in a few products or services and in a small number of export destinations.

Global Mobility Report 2017: Tracking Sector Performance



By Sustainable Mobility for All, World Bank
Available On-line
Published October 2017, pages 107
English Version. Paperback
ISBN: 978-0-692-95670-0

The Global Mobility Report 2017 (GMR) is the first-ever attempt to examine performance of the transport sector globally, and its capacity to support the mobility of goods and people, in a sustainable way. The GMR is built around three components:

- (i) four global objectives that define “sustainable mobility”;
- (ii) quantitative and qualitative targets for those objectives, drawn from international agreements; and
- (iii) indicators to track country-level progress towards those objectives. It covers all modes of transport, including road, air, waterborne and rail.

Reducing inequalities in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene in the era of the sustainable development goals: Executive summary (2 Vol.)



Available On-line
Published October 2017, 2 Vol.
English Version. Paperback
Report No.: 119099

The Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Poverty Diagnostic Initiative undertook multidisciplinary research in 18 countries,

developing innovative methods to better understand the impacts of inadequate services on human development outcomes, and identify the binding constraints to service delivery. This initiative considers the new standards of the SDGs, which raise the bar (above that set by the MDGs) by not just aiming for universal access to basic WASH services, but also attempting to close the gaps in service quality, with an eye toward long-term sustainability.

Independent Evaluation Group annual report 2017: Influence through evaluation

Available On-line
Published September 2017, pages 40
English Version. Paperback
Report No.: 119999

In this report the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) assesses how well the World Bank Group is positioned to attain its goal of boosting shared prosperity. The results should help the World Bank Group to adjust their programs to ensure success. IEG also completed two evaluations on delivering services to the poor and simultaneously stimulated discussions about the assessment of service delivery and behavior change. For their strategic engagement area on environmental sustainability, IEG put together a synthesis paper of their findings on resilience to systemic shocks.

India Project Documents

Second Kerala Rural Water and Sanitation Project (Jalanidhi II)

Date 10 October 2017
Project ID P121774
Report No. STEP3095, STEP3976, STEP4300 (Procurement Plan)

Amaravati Sustainable Capital City Development Project

Date 01 August 2017
Project ID P159808
Report No. SFG3009 (Environment Assessment)

Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

Date 08 August 2017
Project ID P155617
Report No. PAD1898 (Project Appraisal Document)

HP DPL Green Growth Project

Date 16 October 2017
Project ID P124041
Report No. ICRR0020256 (Implementation Completion Report Review)

Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project

Date 20 September 2017
Project ID P093720
Report No. ICR4212 (Implementation Completion & Results Report)

Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project

Date 13 September 2017
Project ID P091031
Report No. RES29424 (Project Paper)

First National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Date 01 October 2017
Project ID P092217
Report No. RES27861 (Project Paper)

Second Technical Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project

Date 28 September 2017
Project ID P102549
Report No. ICR4197 (Implementation Completion & Results Report)

Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project

Date 17 August 2017
Project ID P157836
Report No. SFG3562 (Environment Assessment)

Mumbai Urban Transport Project - 3

Date 19 September 2017
Project ID P159782
Report No. PIDISDSC20633 (Project Information and Integrated Safeguard Data Sheet)

Mumbai Urban Transport Project - 2

Date 27 September 2017
Project ID P113028
Report No. ICRR0020854 (Implementation Completion Report Review)

Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence and Equity Project

Date 10 August 2017
Project ID P160331
Report No. 113124 (Project Appraisal Document)
116524 (Environment Assessment)

Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project

Date 22 August 2017
Project ID P154283
Report No. RES29342 (Project Paper)

Strengthening Public Financial management in Rajasthan

Date 11 October 2017
Project ID P156869
Report No. PIDISDSC23405 (Project Information and Integrated Safeguard Data Sheet)

Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project

Date 16 October 2017
Project ID P150395
Report No. SFG3527 (Environment Assessment)
SFG3145, SFG3563 (Resettlement Plan)

Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project

Date 01 September 2017
Project ID P146936
Report No. SFG1207 (Environment Assessment)

From the Blogworld

Planning for disaster: forecasting the impact of floods in South Asia's river basins

By Satya Priya
Co-authors: William Young, Lead Water Resources Management Specialist, the World Bank, Thomas Hopson and Ankit Avasthi

The Ganges Basin in South Asia is home to some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Annual floods during monsoon season cause widespread human suffering and economic losses. This year, torrential rains and catastrophic floods affected more than 45 million people, including 16 million children. By 2030, with ongoing climate change and socioeconomic development, floods may cost the region as much as \$215 billion annually.

A new report, Flood Risk Assessment and Forecasting for the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna



River Basins, summarizes two recent initiatives aiming to reduce these flood losses.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/ybduydzh>

From potato eaters to world leaders in agriculture

By Priti Kumar
Co-author: Fokke Fennema

Van Gogh's famous painting of Potato Eaters depicts a family of poor peasants seated around a dinner table eating their staple fare. The artist confessed that this work is deeply reflective of the hard work that Dutch peasants have to do to earn a bare meal. Van Gogh frequently painted the harvest and often compared the season to his own art, and how he would someday reap all that he had put into it.

Since those difficult times in the late 1800s, the tiny country of the Netherlands (pop: 17 mill; about the size of Haryana state in India) has come a long way. Matching sheer ingenuity with technological prowess, the Netherlands today is one of the world's most agriculturally productive countries, feeding people across the globe from its meager land area. Indeed, this small nation is now the world's second-largest exporter of agri-food products including vegetables, fruits, potatoes, meat, milk and



eggs; some 6% of world trade in fruits and 16% in vegetables comes from the Netherlands.

But how exactly did they do this?

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/ybrjdslg>

From the Blogworld

Reducing the health burden due to pollution

By Olusoji O. Adeyi Co author: Julia Bucknall



Hheavy smog compelled New Delhi to declare a pollution emergency last week. As air pollution soared to hazardous levels and residents donned masks, India's capital took a series of measures, such as banning most commercial trucks from entering the city and closing all schools, in response to the air quality crisis. Many residents complained of headaches, coughs and other health concerns, and poor visibility caused major traffic accidents.

However, those in New Delhi aren't the only ones suffering the consequences of pollution. Globally, pollution accounted for an estimated 9 million, or 16 percent, of all premature deaths worldwide in 2015, according to a report released last month by The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health. This is three times more deaths than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined; 15 times as many deaths as war and all forms of violence; and more deaths than alcohol (2.3 million deaths), road accidents (1.4 million) or child and maternal malnutrition (1.4 million).

The Commission also reports that pollution-related diseases cause productivity losses equivalent to about 2 percent of gross domestic product per year. They also result in healthcare costs that are responsible for 1.7 percent of annual health spending in high-income countries and for up to 7 percent of health spending in middle-income countries that are heavily polluted and rapidly developing. Welfare losses due to pollution are estimated at US\$ 4.6 trillion per year – equivalent to 6.2 percent of global economic output.

Far from being a rich person's problem, pollution disproportionately kills the poor and vulnerable. Nearly 92 percent of all pollution-related deaths occur in low-income and middle-income countries. Children are especially at high risk of pollution-related disease, with exposure to pollutants during times of vulnerability in utero and early infancy leading to higher risk of

disease, disability and death in childhood and across their lifespan.

Pollution of the air outside and inside our homes, of waterways and coastal zones and of land all contribute to the health burden reported by the Lancet. Ambient air pollution, chemical pollution and soil pollution are all increasing, with the biggest rise found in rapidly developing and industrializing low-income and middle-income countries. Household air and water pollution were, the Lancet added, slowly declining, which is some good news.

To help curb this massive health and environmental burden, the World Bank Group works with developing countries and our partners to reduce pollution, implement proper waste management, improve water and air quality and promote clean development for healthier lives and improved economic opportunity. World Bank commitments (IBRD/IDA) to pollution management and environmental health totaled more than US\$ 7 billion between fiscal year 2009 and 2016. These commitments are well aligned with the World Bank Group's twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

Tackling this pollution problem needs actions on many fronts and requires sustained effort. We need better monitoring, improved public awareness, regulation and enforcement of those regulations. We need good contract management for polluting industries. We need traffic management and vehicle maintenance. We need behavior change. And sometimes we have to clean up polluted sites. The diversity of constituencies also points to a need for customized messaging that will resonate with each audience. In addition, leadership – at the local, country and global levels – is needed to initiate and sustain coalitions for change, identify large-scale solutions, formulate and enforce regulations and secure financing for pollution prevention and reduction programs.

Much of the work ahead requires partnerships across sectors and institutions. These institutions include the World Health Organization as the global leader in health, think tanks, civil society organizations, multilateral and financiers, bilateral financiers, foundations and the private sector. Building on our track record and working across multiple sectors – environment, health, governance, energy, water, macroeconomics and fiscal management – the World Bank can further support countries to inform policy change and to improve governance, institutional capacity, communications and behaviors. These, combined with investments in prevention and cleaning up, will help to curtail pollution as a major drag on public health and economic growth. 🌐

See: <https://tinyurl.com/y8tv92rt>

From the Blogworld

An Indian government effort to encourage account ownership produces surprising results

By Asli Demirgüç-Kunt

Co-authors: Leora Klapper, Saniya Ansar



Can government policies designed to promote financial inclusion encourage people to open an account at a bank or other financial institution?

Results from our paper using a new survey of 13,000 adults across India suggest they can have an impact. Women, poor and illiterate adults were more likely to apply for an account after the government-

led Jan Dhan Yojana (JDY) program was introduced in India to encourage account ownership.

The survey was carried out in early 2016, roughly a year and a half after the Indian government launched its flagship JDY program to achieve universal account ownership. The program encouraged every household to open one account by offering zero-balance accounts with no opening fees.

The JDY has yielded impressive results: At the end of 2016, about 250 million accounts had been opened thanks to the new policy—earning the Indian government a Guinness World Records certificate recognizing the feat.

We asked respondents if they had ever applied for an account at any financial institution. We found that 68 percent of adults in surveyed states had applied for an account at some point in their lives.

Among this group, one third – or 21 percent of adults – had applied for a JDY account.

The most interesting finding: In the 12 months preceding the survey, groups that traditionally didn't have accounts applied in greater numbers than those that would otherwise fare better with traditional accounts. 🌐

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/y996zzlm>

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