



NITI Aayog

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# *arth*NITI

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VOLUME TWO | 25 NOVEMBER 2019

SPECIAL FEATURE: SCHOOL EDUCATION QUALITY INDEX



## Team ArthNITI

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## FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

The economy has been undergoing structural changes over the past few years. Implementation of reforms, such as the GST, IBC, RERA, and most importantly, the clean-up of the financial system have been the highlight of India's growth story in this decade. Despite these, India has been able to grow much faster than the rest of the world. With widespread and ongoing turbulence in several parts of the global economy, the 'India story' continues to be attractive for foreign investors.

India has immense potential in terms of its talent pool and the digital ecosystem that is going to be the backbone of industrial growth going forward. Both domestic and foreign investors are looking at India with interest as the economy provides a huge market, which is largely untapped, and a favourable position in global geopolitics. We have to make the best use of the ongoing US–China trade dispute to utilize the vast talent pool for raising India's share in global manufacturing trade flows.

The target for the economy to achieve \$5 trillion GDP by FY25 is by no means an easy task; however, given the fundamental strength, India has potential to make it happen. The formalisation of the economy that has taken place in the past three years and the increased digitisation has helped Indian fintech ecosystem to grow tremendously. Supporting this, an important development has been the constant improvement in India's position in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking, having gone up from 134 (2014) to 63 (2020) in a span of six years. Still, there are miles to go when it comes to factors like health and nutrition, and education, which are important building blocks in today's knowledge-based economy. Important steps like Ayushman Bharat and PMJAY are commendable and

will generate a massive supply response from health service providers, especially in smaller cities and towns. This government's focus on improving our health and education systems will bear fruit in the coming years in the shape of increased availability of better human capital, India's biggest comparative strength. There is, however, an increasing need for states to come together and contribute in this process for a better and more coherent policy architecture.

To encourage healthy competition between the states in the education sphere, NITI Aayog recently launched the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) to evaluate and compare the performance of states/UTs in the school education sector.

The second edition of *arthNITI* is, therefore, dedicated to discussing the education scenario in India and more specifically how different states rank on the school education quality metric. Additionally, it is always our focus through this periodical to analyse and highlight key global macroeconomic developments relevant to India, while also bringing attention to domestic macroeconomic trends.

The first edition of *arthNITI*, which discussed POSHAN Abhiyaan and issues surrounding nutrition in India, was well received. The coming editions will incorporate the feedback from all the important stakeholders and consistently attempt to improve our content and quality.

I look forward to your feedback on this edition of *arthNITI*.



Dr Rajiv Kumar,  
25 November 2019,  
New Delhi

# G20: The Macro Scene

## Real Sector

	% Share of World GDP, 2018	GDP Per Capita (\$), 2018	Latest*	Inflation (y/y, %)*	Industrial Output Growth (y/y, %)*	Manufacturing (%) of GDP, 2018
United States	23.9	62,641.0	2.3 Q2	1.8 Oct	1.1 Oct	11.2
China	15.9	9,770.8	6.2 Q2	3.8 Oct	4.7 Oct	29.4
Japan	5.8	39,286.7	1.1 Q2	0.2 Sep	1.3 Sep	20.7
Germany	4.7	41,463.6	0.4 Q2	1.1 Oct	-4.3 Sep	9.9
United Kingdom	3.3	9,311.4	1.2 Q2	1.5 Oct	-1.4 Sep	14.2
France	3.2	41,463.6	1.4 Q2	0.8 Oct	0.1 Sep	9.9
India	3.2	2,015.6	5.0 Q2	4.6 Oct	-1.1 Aug	15.0
Italy	2.4	34,318.4	-0.1 Q2	0.2 Oct	-2.1 Sep	15.0
Brazil	2.2	8,920.8	1.0 Q2	2.5 Oct	-1.1 Oct	9.7
Canada	2.0	46,124.7	1.6 Q2	1.9 Sep	-1.1 Aug	
Russia	1.9	11,288.9	0.6 Q1	3.8 Oct	2.6 Oct	12.3
Korea, Rep.	1.9	31,362.8	2.1 Q2	0.0 Oct	-2.9 Aug	27.2
Australia	1.7	57,305.3	1.4 Q2	1.7 Sep		5.8
Mexico	1.4	9,698.1	0.6 Q2	3.0 Oct	-1.8 Sep	17.0
Indonesia	1.2	3,893.6	5.1 Q2	3.1 Oct	14.7 Aug	19.9
Saudi Arabia^	0.9	23,219.1	3.7 Q4	0.3 Oct	3.4 Sep	12.8
Turkey	0.9	9,311.4	-1.4 Q2	8.6 Oct	-3.6 Aug	14.2
Argentina	0.6	11,652.6	-6.4 Q2	50.5 Sep	-5.1 Sep	12.8
South Africa	0.4	23,219.1	0.0 Q1	4.1 Sep	-2.4 Sep	11.8
European Union	21.9	9,770.8	1.3 Q2	1.1 Oct	-1.2 Sep	14.2

Source: OECD, IMF, World Bank and Trading Economics, \*Calendar Year 2019, unless otherwise stated. Japan and the US 2017 values. ^YTD values for industrial output and GDP growth (2018)

## Financial and External Sectors

	Interest Rates		External Sector					
	10Y Bond*	Bank Lending Rate	(% of GDP, 2018)					
			\$/LCU* (%.y/y)	Current Account	Trade	Exports	Imports	Inward Revenue (\$ bn)
USA	1.75	4.99 Oct	1	-2.4	27.1	12.1	15.0	3,567.5
China	3.22	3.25 Oct	7.0 (1.0)	0.4	38.2	19.5	18.7	2,910.1
Japan	-0.09	0.95 Sep	108.2 (-4.4)	3.5	34.6	17.8	16.8	1,231.2
Germany	-0.34	1.98 Sep	0.9 (1.5)	7.3	87.2	47.0	40.2	2,145.4
UK	0.73	1.75 Oct	0.8 (-1.7)	-3.8	61.3	29.9	31.4	1,139.4
France	-0.03	1.68 Sep	0.9 (1.5)	-0.3	63.4	31.3	32.1	1,134.8
India	6.47	9.40 Oct	70.9 (-4.1)	-2.4	43.1	19.7	23.4	658.6
Italy	1.34	1.83 Sep	0.9 (1.5)	2.4	61.0	31.8	29.3	755.6
Brazil	6.70	51.26 Sep	4.0 (7.7)	-0.8	29.1	14.8	14.3	303.4
Canada	1.45	3.95 Oct	1.3 (0.2)	-2.7	65.9	31.9	34.0	647.4
Russia	6.39	8.28 Sep	64.0 (-2.7)	6.9	51.5	30.7	20.8	569.4
Korea	1.68	3.31 S Sep	1,168.1 (2.4)	4.7	83.0	44.0	39.0	765.7
Australia	1.08	7.92 Oct	1.5 (2.5)	-2.1	43.0	21.7	21.3	377.4
Mexico	7.00	9.05 Aug	19.1 (-5.5)	-1.8	80.3	39.2	41.1	527.2
Indonesia	7.04	10.36 Aug	14,077.0 (-7.4)	-3.0	43.0	21.0	22.1	229.1
Saudi Arabia	2.12	2.38 Sep	3.8 (0.0)	9.0	66.5	39.7	26.8	332.6
Turkey	12.04	14.94 Oct	5.7 (3.9)	-3.5	60.4	29.6	30.8	230.7
Argentina	57.5	73.89 Oct	59.6 (62.6)	-5.4	30.8	14.4	16.4	82.6
South Africa	8.35	10.00 Oct	15.2 (2.2)	-3.7	59.8	30.1	29.7	118.3
EU	0.00	1.54 Sep	0.9 (1.5)	-	86.5	44.7	41.7	10,653.6

Source: World Bank, CEIC, Bloomberg, BIS and Trading Economics. \*Daily Nominal Exchange Rate (- sign indicates appreciation), Bond yield as of 20.11.2019. ^52 W yield. Inward revenue = export of goods and services + primary income + remittances.

## Commodities and Markets

Data as of 31.10.2019	Price (\$)	Price (INR)
Commodity		
Copper (MT)	5,757	4,46,000
Iron Ore - 62% Fe (MT)	88	2,460*
Aluminium (MT)	1,726	1,39,350
Steel (Rebar, MT)	405	32,300
Brent Crude Oil (bbl)	59	3,909
Coal 6,000 GCV (MT)	69	2,737^
Natural Gas (MMBtu)	2	191

Source: \$ Prices from World Bank Commodity Prices Pink Sheet. London Metal Exchange. Rs. Prices from MCX, \*NMDC (64% Fe). ^CIL Price

	31st Oct 19	31st Oct 18
DJIA	27,186.69 (9.3)	24,874.64
NASDAQ 100	8,083.11 (18.7)	6,810.12
Shanghai Composite	2,929.06 (12.5)	2,602.78
Nikkei 225	22,927.04 (4.6)	21,920.46
FTSE 100	7,330.80 (4.2)	7,035.90
Hang Seng	26,906.72 (7.7)	24,979.69
STI	3,229.88 (7.0)	3,018.80
BSE Sensex	40,129.05 (16.5)	34,442.05

Source: Yahoo Finance. % change from last year in brackets



## Global Macro

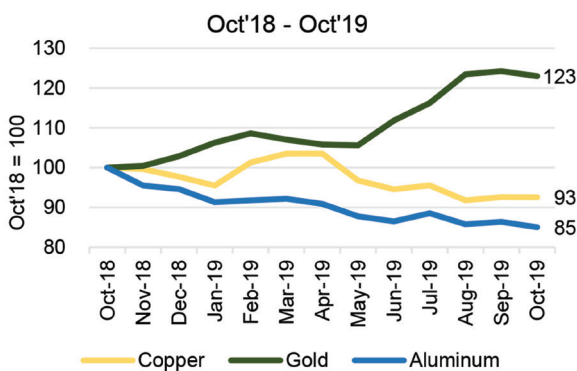
The IMF, in its World Economic Outlook for October 2019, downgraded the global growth forecast for CY19 to 3%, terming the current phase as one of slowest since the financial crisis.

This subdued growth is a consequence of still unresolved trade issues and elevated uncertainty surrounding geopolitics; idiosyncratic factors causing macroeconomic strain in several emerging market economies; and structural factors, such as low productivity growth and aging demographics, in advanced economies.<sup>1</sup>

Economic growth for major economies like the US (2.0% y/y) and China (6.0% y/y) has continued to moderate in the September QFY20 with further deceleration in trade growth across the board.

One of the key features of this sluggish growth phase is the broad-based slowdown in manufacturing and global trade. The slowdown in manufacturing is also evident from the continued moderation in prices of key industrial inputs and increasing investment in safe haven commodities like gold.

Figure 1: Global Commodity Prices (Oct '18 = 100)

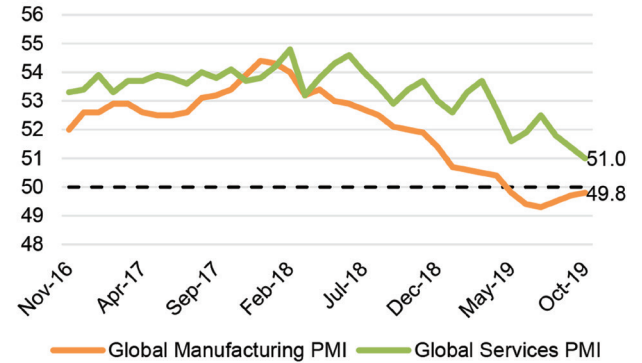


Source: World Bank

The services sector in major economies has been holding up, playing a role in keeping labour markets buoyant and wage growth healthy in advanced economies. However, there are concerns that the slowdown in manufacturing might spill over to the services sector. Some leading indicators, like the Services PMI, have already started pointing towards a slowdown in the service sector in major economies. Services PMI is above 50, but if the downward trend continues, the slowdown can extend to the services sector.

1. World Economic Outlook, International Monetary Fund, October  
 2. <https://ihsmarkit.com/solutions/us-china-trade-war-impacts.html>

Figure 2: Global PMI



Source: IHS Markit

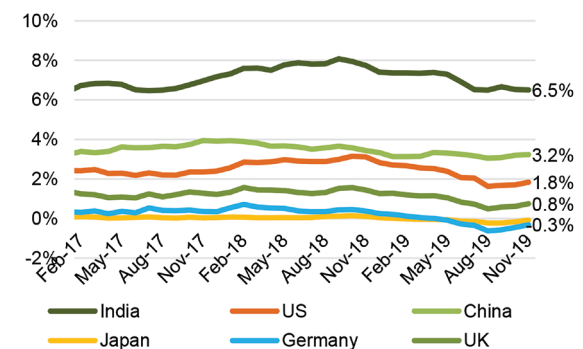
The IMF noted in its World Economic Outlook that the monetary expansion in major economies has helped counter, to an extent, the impact of the US-China trade tensions. The fiscal stimulus in the US and China have had a similar impact.

Trade disruptions and continued uncertainty surrounding it have hurt the global economy. If tariffs remain in place, losses in economic output would be permanent, as distorted price signals would prevent the specialization that maximizes global productivity.<sup>2</sup>

Despite that, the IMF notes that the economy would recover in 2020, growing at a modestly higher rate of 3.4%. Whilst it mentions that this recovery is precarious, most notably because the downside risks have been heightened by the recent geopolitical tensions and Brexit-related risks, and it would continue to impact the supply chains going forward.

The trade disruptions have also had an impact on investments globally. Long-term bond yields globally have remained depressed since last year. Rising global debt (\$255 trillion which is 3x of global GDP) is also a matter of concern. However, India has a relative advantage in terms of its low debt to GDP ratio, which could be put to valuable use.

Figure 3: 10 Year G-Sec Yields



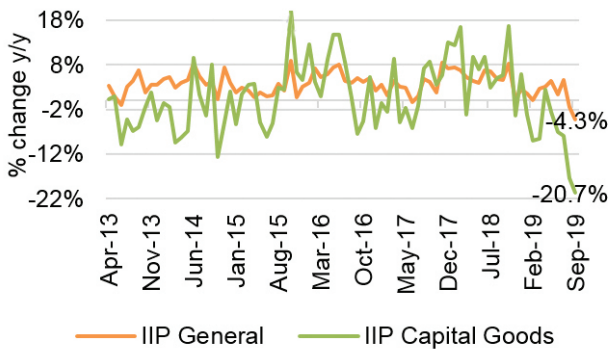
Source: Bloomberg

## Indian Macro

The IMF cut its global growth forecast for CY19 to 3.0% y/y in its October World Economic Outlook (WEO) from 3.2% y/y in the July update. This is the slowest global growth since the Global Financial Crisis. Political instabilities and trade wars were held culprits for this 'synchronized slowdown'.

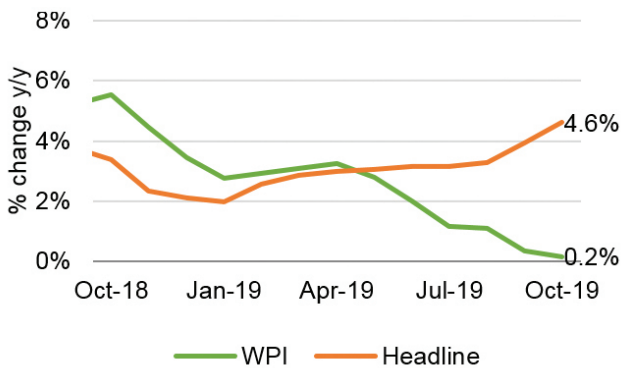
Recent revisions to India's FY20 GDP growth forecasts peg growth around 5.5%. Macroeconomic indicators show no signs of improvement and the main sources of risk remain. The financial sector is still distressed, private consumption is softening, the fiscal situation remains tight, and the private sector still lacks animal spirits. GoI's disinvestment plan for CPSEs might face headwinds if the private sector does not have adequate capacity to invest and sufficient ability to take risks.

Figure 4: IIP



Source: MoSPI

Figure 5: Inflation



Source: MoSPI

PFCE grew 3.1% y/y in June 2019. IIP in September 2019 fell by 4.3% y/y, the largest since the series was started in April 2012. WPI inflation eased to 0.16% y/y, a forty-month low, after rising to 0.33% y/y

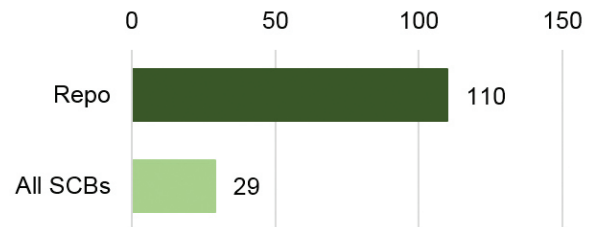
a month ago. However, due to rise in food prices, WPI inflation continues to be divergent from CPI inflation, which rose to 4.62% y/y, a sixteen-month high, in October 2019.

As inflation rises the room for rate cuts reduces. In a low-growth environment, rising inflation also raises concerns of stagflation. India's merchandise imports fell by 16.3% y/y and merchandise exports fell by 1.1% y/y in October 2019.

Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI), which is considered as a three to six month leading indicator, has also moderated. While PMI manufacturing fell to 50.6, PMI services declined to 49.2 in October 2019, suggesting sharp deceleration.

To revive economic growth, the Government of India has unveiled a slew of measures in the last couple of months, including a significant reduction in corporate tax rate. The RBI also cut the repo rate five times in a row in the past ten months to 5.15% in October 2019 from 6.50% in January 2019. However, transmission is still weak. Till August 2019 despite a 110 bps cut in repo rates there was only a 29 bps cut in fresh loan lending rate of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs). Even though credit delivery is yet to accelerate the balance sheets of banks have improved.

Figure 6: Rate Cuts from Jan '19 to Aug '19 (bps)



Source: RBI

Among other positive signs, the deceleration in vehicle sales growth seems to have bottomed out and it is now showing signs of improvement. Also, India's rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking improved to 63 from 77 last year. This exemplifies the positive impact of sustained reforms over the past couple of years. These reforms are expected to play an important role in India's drive to becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

## Global Competitiveness and India

The World Economic Forum (WEF) released its annual Global Competitiveness Report, 2019, in October. The results indicated India has fallen by ten positions to rank 68th out of 141 nations on the index.<sup>1</sup> Amongst the BRICS, China (28th) is the best performer, followed by Russia (43rd), South Africa (60th), India and Brazil (71st).

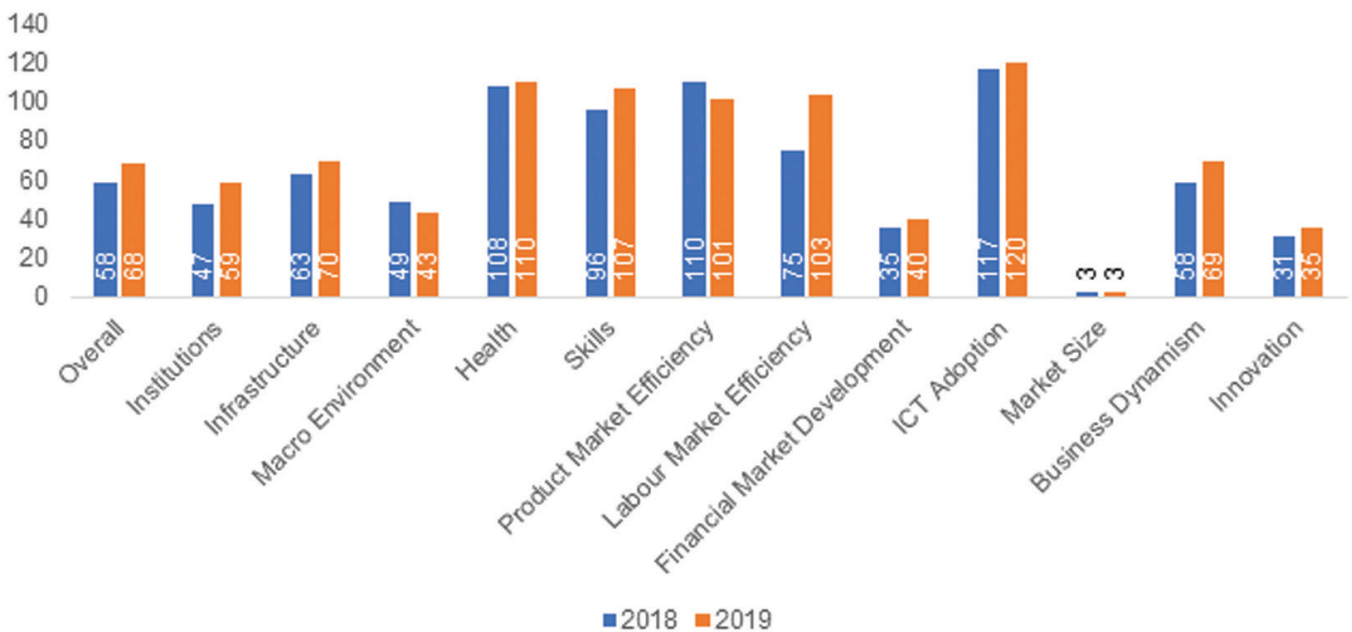
The index seeks to explain the sources of total factor productivity (TFP) growth—the proportion of growth not explained by capital and labour. An established

result in neoclassical growth theory is that TFP drives growth. It can essentially be thought of as the ‘competitiveness’ of a nation or how well a nation is able to use the existing technology, capital and labour to drive growth.

There are twelve pillars through which the WEF measures competitiveness. The pillars, along with India’s ranks, are presented below. A closer inspection of the results indicates that India’s fall in rank has more to do with countries ranked close to India registering better performance, rather than India regressing on the chosen indicators.

However, the report indicates that India still has a long way to go in raising our competitiveness. It ranks beyond 100 in five pillars and features in the top 50 in just four pillars.

Figure 1: India’s Ranks in the Global Competitiveness Index



The report finds a persistent slowdown in the factors affecting productivity growth across the globe. Noting that productivity growth was slowing even before the onset of the Global Financial Crisis, the report further reveals there has been an acceleration in the slowdown post the crisis. With the world economy in a ‘synchronised slowdown’, according to the IMF Chief, productivity enhancing measures are needed to revive growth.

A key takeaway from GCI 2019 is that a balance needs to be struck between technology integration and human capital investments. While India has done extremely well in innovation capability (35th), we need to strengthen our skills and labour markets to avail the maximum benefits from these innovations. This implies that the process of codification of labour laws needs to be completed at the earliest. Further, the falling trend of female labour force participation

<sup>1</sup> Since the methodology for the index was changed in 2018, results of previous years are not strictly comparable and hence not reported.

# 1

## THE BIG PICTURE

needs to be reversed. Outcome-linked investments in education, health and nutrition must continue in earnest. Human capital is likely to drive productivity growth over the coming decade.

The report further notes that India's product markets are hampered by a lack of trade openness. Increasing competition in product markets, along with a reduction in non-essential price distorting subsidies should see greater efficiency in India's product markets.

While India has scored relatively well on transport infrastructure, ranked 28th in the world, we lag behind in utilities infrastructure, where we rank 103rd, bringing our composite infrastructure rank down to 70th. Despite substantial efforts, we still need to improve our performance on electricity access and quality, availability and reliability of safe drinking water.

ICT adoption throws up some interesting results. Despite the boom in mobile internet usage and plummeting costs of data (per GB), India's performance is shown to be sub-par, according to the index, with a rank of 120. Particularly, India's ranks of 120 and 107 in mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions (per 100 persons) and internet users (% of adult population) may not be reflecting the realities on the ground.

Whilst India's overall rank on the financial systems pillar is 40, it is being dragged down by stability issues. In the soundness of banks indicator, India recorded a rank of 89. In non-performing loans, we had a rank of 106. In terms of regulatory capital ratio (% of risk weighted assets), India ranked a dismal 131/141. Financial stability, therefore, has been dragging down India's competitiveness. Governance reforms in public-sector banks need to be pursued aggressively to ensure a stable banking and financial system.

In the business dynamism pillar, India ranks poorly in administrative requirements, despite substantial improvements over the past five years. For example, in the cost of starting a new business (% of GNI per capita) and time taken to start a new business (days), India's ranks are 95 and 90 respectively. Insolvency recovery rate (cents to the dollar) is another area for India to improve performance, where we rank 104th.

The priorities that emerge for India are clear from this index. With the fourth Industrial Revolution on the horizon, we need to significantly ramp-up investments in human capital, rationalise labour laws, enhance female labour force participation and upskill our workforce to raise our competitiveness and drive us towards upper-middle income country status.



## School Education Quality Index

In recent decades, there have been substantial gains in providing access to school education in India, driven by the launch of many Centrally sponsored schemes such as the Mid-day Meal Scheme (1995), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (2009), coupled with efforts by states/union territories. Further, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act was enacted in 2009. This made elementary education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen years. These initiatives have greatly contributed to the expansion of school infrastructure, teaching capacity and academic support across the country and have led to improvements in enrolment. Consequently, the Government of India has been largely successful in achieving the universalization of primary education (Millennium Development Goal 2).

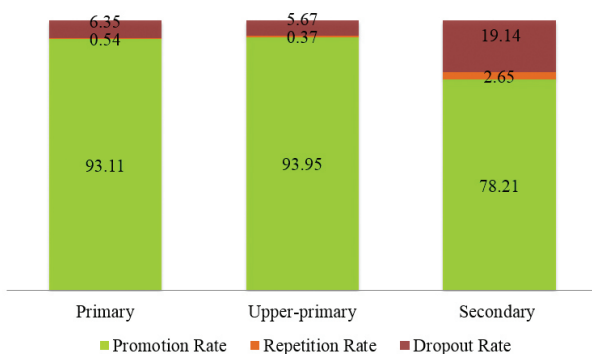
Figure 1: Gross Enrolment Ratio at Primary Level



Source: UDISE 2016–17

Today, the Indian school education system is one of the largest in the world with over 15 lakh schools, 89 lakh teachers, and 25 crore students. In our endeavor to achieve Sustainable Development (Goal 4), India

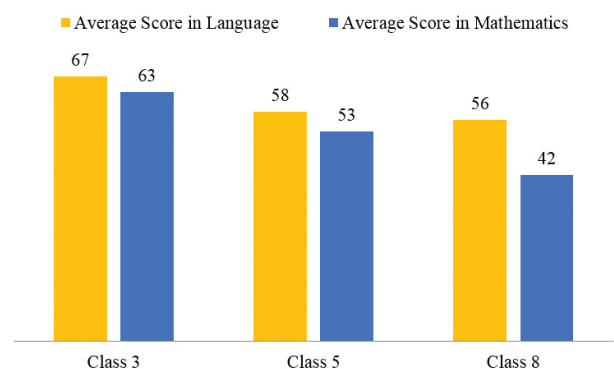
Figure 2: Promotion, Retention and Dropout Rate by Stage of School Education



Source: UDISE (2016–17), MHRD

is now increasing emphasis on quality education by addressing the key challenges of high dropout rates and low learning levels. Figure 2 shows that the dropout rate almost triples from the primary to the secondary stage of education. In terms of learning outcomes, the average scores in language and mathematics decrease at higher levels (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Learning Outcomes in India



Source: National Achievement Survey, (NAS, 2017) MHRD

Schooling should result in successful learning outcomes. A credible system of assessment of performance in this regard is thus needed to guide policy action.

The journey from Millennium Development to Sustainable Development requires a shift in the focus from universalizing access to education towards the delivery of quality education



NITI Aayog recently launched the School Education Quality Index, a first-of-its-kind national ranking index, evaluating the performance of states/UTs in school

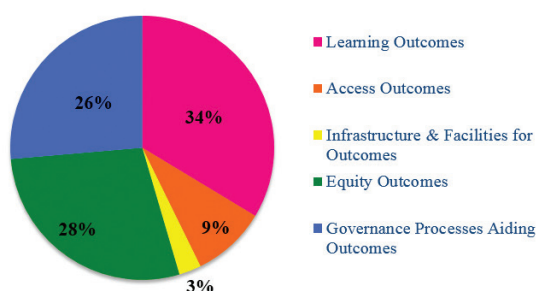


# 2 POLICY & PROGRAMME

education across the country. The index aims to bring an ‘outcomes’ focus to education policy by providing states and UTs with a platform to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and undertake requisite course corrections or policy interventions.

Developed in partnership with key stakeholders—including the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the World Bank, and sector experts—the index comprises a critical set of thirty indicators that measure the overall effectiveness, quality as well as efficiency of the schooling system. Spanning crucial parameters such as learning, access, infrastructure, equity and governance processes, SEQI presents a comprehensive assessment of the school education sector.

Summary of the School Education Quality Index



The School Education Quality Index assigns the highest weightage to learning outcomes and thereby sends a strong signal to ensure the focus remains on learning and quality.

The index ranks states and UTs on their overall performance in the reference year 2016–17, as well as on their incremental performance, that is, the change in their performance between the reference year and base year (2015–16). To facilitate a like-for-like comparison, states and UTs have been grouped as large states, small states and UTs. The rankings present incredible insights on the status of school education across states/UTs and their relative progress over time. The detailed report is available at <https://niti.gov.in/content/school-education-quality-index>.

Kerala, Manipur and Chandigarh record the best scores within their groups in the overall performance ranking. A snapshot of the top-performing large as well as small states and UTs is presented below.

Overall Performance Ranking Reference Year (2016–17)		
Large States	Small States	Union Territories
Kerala	Manipur	Chandigarh
Rajasthan	Tripura	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
Karnataka	Goa	Delhi

In terms of incremental performance, thirty out of thirty-five states and UTs improved their scores from the base to the reference year. Haryana, Assam, Daman and Diu as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli showed exceptional progress, improving their scores by over 15 percentage points.

State/UT	Incremental Progress	State/UT	Incremental Progress
Haryana	18.50	Bihar	7.30
Assam	16.84	Chhattisgarh	6.54
Daman and Diu	16.48	Lakshadweep	5.33
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.06	Himachal Pradesh	4.66
Puducherry	14.28	Kerala	4.53
Meghalaya	14.08	Telangana	4.32
Uttar Pradesh	13.64	Maharashtra	3.90
Nagaland	13.46	Chandigarh	3.88
Orissa	12.44	Madhya Pradesh	2.82
Jammu and Kashmir	12.34	Jharkhand	2.17
Gujarat	10.66	Manipur	1.61
Tamil Nadu	10.20	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.41
Delhi	9.94	Sikkim	-0.87
Punjab	8.32	Mizoram	-1.20
Rajasthan	8.18	Uttarakhand	-1.33
Goa	8.15	Arunachal Pradesh	-1.95
Andhra Pradesh	7.65	Karnataka	-3.62
Tripura	7.64		

Note: West Bengal did not take part in this edition of SEQI

The results of the index reflect the diversity and complexity of the school education landscape in India. It is hoped that the insights will facilitate data-driven decision making as well as better targeting of interventions for quality enhancement. The index will continue to evolve and will be used to capture the progress of governmental interventions, including the recently launched Samagra Shiksha (2018). Given that the nation stands at the brink of a new education policy, SEQI serves as a useful tool to systematically measure the impact of efforts towards realizing the vision of quality education for all.

## South Asian Economies to Play Bigger Role in Global Economy

IMF, in its recent report, noted that South Asia has been one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. Real GDP growth has steadily gone up from an average of about 3% in 1970s and 7% over the last decade. Looking ahead, the region is expected to play a more important role in the global economy.

**Read more:** <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Departmental-Papers-Policy-Papers/Issues/2019/10/29/Is-South-Asia-Ready-for-Take-Off-A-Sustainable-and-Inclusive-Growth-Agenda-47125>

## No Signs of Final Trade Deal between the US and China

The US–China deal talks remain stalled, prolonging the trade and growth slowdown. Leaders from both sides were supposed to negotiate on the deal at the APEC Summit in Chile earlier this month but it was cancelled.

**Read more:** <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china-trump/without-a-china-trade-deal-the-us-will-hike-tariffs-trump-idUSKBN1XT2BT>

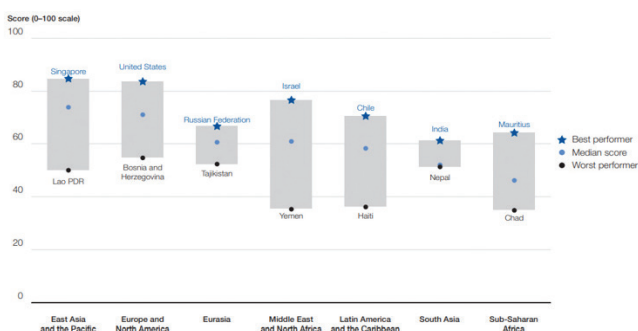
## India Slips 10 Places to 68th Position in Global Competitiveness Index

India slipped to the 68th rank in the Global Competitiveness Index 2019; however, it still remains the best performer among the South Asian countries.

**Read more:**

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf)

Figure 1: Competitiveness gap within regions  
Best, median and worst GCI 4.0 2019 scores, by region

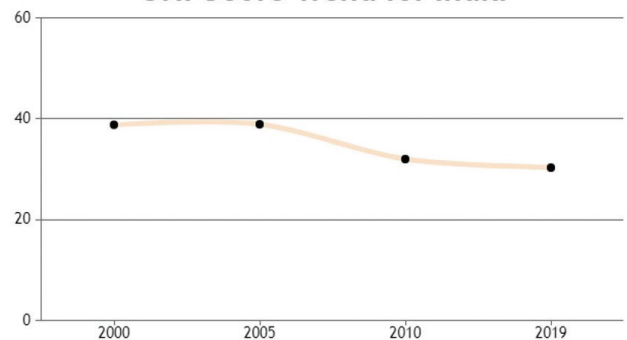


## India Fares Poorly on Global Hunger Index 2019

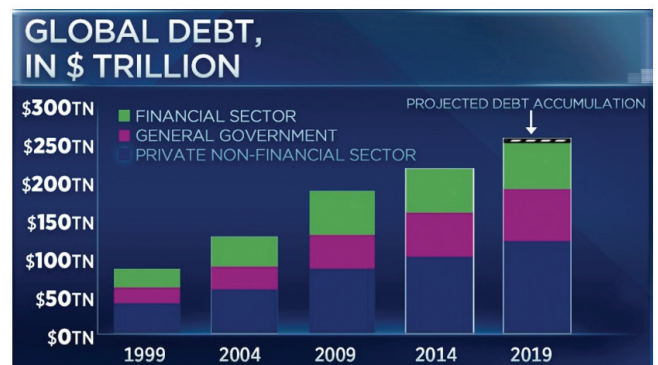
In the Global Hunger Index, India ranked 102nd out of the 117 countries covered. With a score of 30.3, India suffered from a level of hunger that is serious.

**Read more:** <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html>

### GHI Score Trend for India



## Global Debt to Reach Unprecedented Levels by end of 2019



Global debt is set to create a new record by the end of 2019, as it is about to reach \$255 trillion (3x of global GDP), as estimated by the Institute of International Finance. Major part of the surge in global debt (\$7.5 trillion) in the first half of 2019 came from the United States and China.

**Read more:** <https://in.reuters.com/article/global-markets-debt/global-debt-to-top-record-255-trillion-by-years-end-idINKBN1XP1G1>



## NITI Aayog Joins Hands with Swachh Bharat Mission for Plastic-free India

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call for a plastic-free India, NITI Aayog joined hands with Swachh Bharat Mission and called upon private-sector companies to help address the mammoth plastic challenge, as part of the extended producer responsibility and under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. The meeting held under the chairmanship of CEO NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant and Secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry, saw participation of executives from top FMCG companies of India.



## 10th Meeting of Empowered Committee of Secretaries Organized



The tenth meeting of Empowered Committee of Secretaries held under the chairmanship of CEO Amitabh Kant approved thirty-five project proposals from eight aspirational districts across the country. These included projects for health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, basic infrastructure and skill development.

## NITI Aayog's AIM Marks Its Presence at Next Phase Summit in Singapore

NITI Aayog's flagship initiative Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) supported the government's vision to accelerate economic growth and inclusion for all, at the Next Phase Summit in Singapore. The Summit was attended by students from Atal Tinkering Labs and startups from Atal Incubation Centres and established incubation centres across India.



## Sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue Held



The sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) was held from 7-9 September 2019 in New Delhi. Senior representatives from policymaking, industry and academia participated in this dialogue from both sides. The Indian side was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, and the Chinese side by He Lifeng, Chairman, NDRC.

## NITI Meets Germany to Discuss Progress towards Achieving 2nd SDG—Zero Hunger



Heiko Warnken, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany, and Christiane Hieronymus, Economic Cooperation and Development of German Embassy to India, had an interaction with Dr Yogesh Suri, Senior Adviser, NITI Aayog, and his team to discuss India's policies and progress on food and nutrition security and how the objective of SDG 'One World No Hunger' can be achieved.

## Harvard Prof. Milind Tambe Talks to NITI Aayog about AI



Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science, Harvard University, Milind Tambe held an enlightening session on AI for social good. The lecture was held on 5 November at NITI Aayog and attended by CEO Amitabh Kant and Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar. Prof. Tambe talked extensively about using AI to address challenges in social sectors like education, healthcare and agriculture.

## NITI Aayog Releases School Education Quality Index



The first edition of School Education Quality Index (SEQI) was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, in the presence of Member Dr Vinod Paul, CEO Amitabh Kant, Rina Ray, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, and representatives from the World Bank. SEQI has been developed by NITI Aayog to evaluate the performance of states and union territories (UTs) in the school education sector.

## Health System for a New India: Building Blocks Book Published



Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar released the book on 18 November 2019 in the presence of Bill Gates, co-chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and representatives from national and international academia. The book reveals India's health system as a story of multiple fragmentations at the level of payers and risk pools, healthcare services and at digital backbone running it. It integrates viewpoints on the concerted efforts required for strengthening the existing fractured health system, to meet the challenges that lie ahead of the nation.



## Fourth Meeting of SATH-E Project Held



The 4th Meeting of the National Steering Group of Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital project in Education (SATH-E), chaired by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Adviser Alok Kumar, along with representatives of SATH states was held on 22 November. To improve the quality of education, the three SATH-E states, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, have over the last two years taken many bold and challenging decisions. And through academic and administrative reforms, the states are transforming their school education systems.

## NITI Aayog Hosts Nobel Laureate Robert F. Engle



Robert F. Engle, Nobel laureate professor and Michael Armellino professor of finance at New York University Stern School of Business, had an enriching discussion with NITI VC Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant and other senior government officials and dignitaries on 25 November. He highlighted the existing geopolitical volatility, the impact and effective management as well as the global trends in various financial and systematic risks.





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