



## INDIA IS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

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### **Abstract**

Many people now call India a land of opportunity, following the country's recent level of economic growth. In casual conversations they point to the jazzy buildings, the malls, the successful global firms, and homes that cost even a billion dollars. But that argument is misconstrued. India can really be a land of opportunity only when the educational quality of the rich and the poor converge, and when every child from any socio-economic background has equal opportunities to compete and succeed. The system should allow anyone with ideas to pursue them fearlessly. The system at home, in the schools, and at the workplace should move away from obedience as a trait greater than inquisitiveness. Age should not be equated with wisdom. India has made great strides, but it still has a long way to go to become a land of opportunity.



**“We Need To Create an Innovation Driven Economy”**

### **Introduction**

The human mind sees only the dark side of the picture. Indian population is seen as a problem. India is described as the **AIDS** capital of the world. In any positive rating India comes at the tail end. It is quite depressing to know all this. But this is not the only truth.

- To me India is a land of Opportunities.
- No nation has the vast opportunities India has today. Only that they are in potential.

In the sixties there was a man in Cuddalore known as the Water diviner. He lived on one meal, as he rarely got a client to utilize his services and pay for it. He led an austere life by temperament. Life changed for him. Clients came in quick succession. He became scarce. He was appointed state water diviner. Calls came non-stop from all over the state. He was flooded with orders. **He said he did in one year as much work as he had done in the previous thirty years.** There was an American businessman doing business for \$ 1 million a year. It was about the same time. He came to India to see his son. He stumbled upon a business of \$ 70 Millions as if by luck. Later, it rose ten times in value. These opportunities were always there for the water diviner as well as for the American businessman. They were unaware of it. It was beyond their expectation or imagination. For some reason, both of them came into contact with the Spirit. **The Spirit disclosed the unseen opportunities.**

Tamilnadu has over 250 engineering colleges. How was it possible for so many to sprout, especially when we know at the dawn of Freedom there was only one engineering college. Where did the funds come from? To found these institutions needs a capacity for organisation. Some ten or twenty years ago no one saw these potentials. Now they are there. **They are opportunities in the field of education.**

The truth is opportunities are there in all fields, social, educational, commercial, financial, professional, medical, urban, rural, software and in every conceivable field. Certain awareness – a social awareness – is needed to see them and avail of them. As these are known facts, they need not be enumerated here in detail or to exhaustion. The only point I wish to make



is **Opportunities** are there all around us. Some people exploit them. Sometimes many people avail of them. In that sector we see the country move ahead quickly and marvelously. We hear of people in Tirupur supplying knitwear all over India and Sivakasi getting printing orders from all parts of the country. Social, mental awakening has done this much. **Spiritual awakening will expand the same opportunities many times more upgrading the quality simultaneously.** Spiritual awakening will raise the position of India among the comity of nations.

### India as a Land of Opportunity



By means of the Right to Education Act, India has now made education a fundamental right for all children. However, it may remain just a feel-good Act with no real guarantees or consequences. There may be school buildings but no teachers. When there are teachers they may not be qualified. There may be computers but no power. There may be mid-day meals, but no text books, toilets, or water. Will the courts take governments and bureaucrats to task for failing to provide equal rights in all aspects? The truth is in honest implementation.

*Schadenfreude* behaviour is rampant. Many Indians ask jokingly, “why are Indian crabs shipped in open containers?” The argument is that if one crab tries to escape other crabs will pull it down. Thus, all crabs remain trapped in the open container (that is, poverty). Some try hard to pull others down. The extent of such behaviour is worrisome and has severe consequences in public life. Political parties go to any extent to pull the other party down. Every meaningful development is brought down even if that makes everyone worse-off. Politicians serve themselves at the expense of others. Some social leaders like to maintain the *status quo* in order to make themselves relevant to the have-nots. Class-envy creeps in and even the wealthy that succeeded through hard work and human ingenuity is attacked mercilessly. We ignore the question of whether such ingenuity leads to a better life for others.

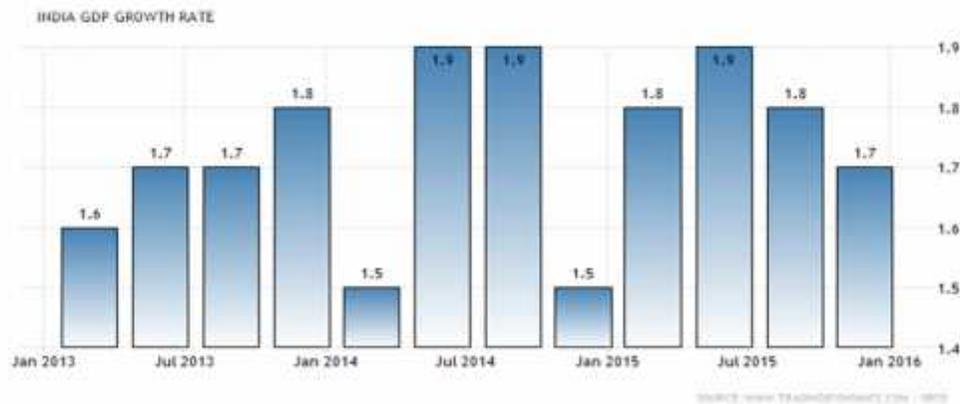
Simultaneously, many rich Indians are busy showcasing their wealth rather than focussing on the greater good. Social leaders ignore the benefits of development. I met a leader who was angry at the rich, assuming that they wanted nice airports and roads to drive their luxury cars. However, he failed to recognise that such spending leads to the creation of thousands of jobs and opportunities for the most needy. The class warfare, and the net outcome of that behaviour, will lead to *Schadenfreude* outcomes. Of course, no one should condone those who engage in corrupt, unethical, and immoral practices to accumulate wealth.

India is a land of contradictions where wealth is juxtaposed with abject poverty; excellence is embedded within inefficiencies and rampant corruption; and the first world infrastructure of leading firms is closeted within pathetic public infrastructure.

However, just like India, the U.S. is also a land of contradictions. For instance, despite the separation of church and state, religion appears to decide who will be the next President of the U.S., or the Governor of a State. Despite all the tensions, India, on the contrary, has elected Prime Ministers and Presidents from minority religions. However, the question is whether opportunities dominate contradictions. In the U.S. it certainly does. We have to wait and see if that happens in India soon enough to have an impact over a billion people.



The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in India expanded 1.70 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015 over the previous quarter. GDP Growth Rate in India averaged 1.66 percent from 1996 until 2015, reaching an all-time high of 5.30 percent in the second quarter of 2009 and a record low of -1.70 percent in the first quarter of 2009.



In India, the growth rate in GDP measures the change in the seasonally adjusted value of the goods and services produced by the Indian economy during the quarter. India is the world's tenth largest economy and the second most populous. The most important and the fastest growing sector of Indian economy are services. Trade, hotels, transport and communication; financing, insurance, real estate and business services and community, social and personal services account for more than 60 percent of GDP. Agriculture, forestry and fishing constitute around 12 percent of the output, but employs more than 50 percent of the labor force. Manufacturing accounts for 15 percent of GDP, construction for another 8 percent and mining, quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply for the remaining 5 percent. This page provides - India GDP Growth Rate - actual values, historical data, forecast, chart, statistics, economic calendar and news. India GDP Growth Rate - actual data, historical chart and calendar of releases - was last updated on June of 2016.

### Conclusion

After independence, for a period of around one and a half decades, India followed the social democratic economic policies. From the year 1991, to keep pace with the changing trends in the market, a new liberalization policy was formulated. The chief architect of this policy was Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister of India. Due to the economic liberalization policies in the 1990s and the 2000s, the country steadily climbed up the economic ladder and by the year 2008, it became the second fastest growing economy in the globe.

Like all other economies of the world, the Indian economic growth has also been affected by the global meltdown. However, compared to other countries, the effect of the recession was not huge here. This was partly due to the fact that the economy in India is still a balance between open market and social economic policies. To cope with the economic meltdown and also to make the economy grow, the government has decided to take certain steps. Around \$559 billion has been ear-marked to develop investment in infrastructure. Similarly, the rural and the service sectors will also be developed significantly. The favorable investment atmosphere and the market trends have paved a good path for Indian economy growth.



**Take Risks in Your Life**  
**If you Win, you Can Lead!**  
**If you Lose, you Can Guide!**  
— Swami Vivekananda

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