



# Cross-country Risk Assessment: China & India

UN Commission for Social Development

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Global Risk Management and Governance

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## **Executive Summary**

The UN Commission for Social Development created this research group in recognition of the sixty-first session's priority theme "full and productive employment and decent work for all" with the express purpose of giving the CSocD recommendations on how to distribute aid between Chinese and Indian sectors facing the highest levels of risk as pertaining to this core priority. This has been done through analyses of social, economic, and political risk factors in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India. This investigative report has been divided into five sections: First, population health & happiness, second, political stability, third, current economic status, fourth, projected growth, and fifth, this research group's final recommendations for investment.

As both countries are undergoing rapid economic growth, experiencing dramatic demographic shifts, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and working in an ever more competitive international environment, it is critical to ensure that underserved, vulnerable, and endangered populations and sectors are protected. Full, productive employment and decent work are especially critical cornerstones to robust and low-risk social, political, and economic development, given how foundational both China and India are to the world economy.

India faces especially high levels of risk in terms of the CSocD's mandate. Its HDI ranking is 134<sup>th</sup> globally, it has a 6.8% general unemployment rate (over 66 million unemployed persons), and an increasingly unstable political environment as it weathers intense accusations of democratic backsliding and authoritarianism under Narendra Modi. Further, it has been struggling to increase federal investment in education in recent years as it continues to confront a booming population. With these factors in mind, this report recommends complete investment in the Indian economy with a focus on small business development, job training, and primary education for young adults and underrepresented population groups. This investment should be made through direct partnerships with both regional government bodies and local non-profit organizations to ensure projects are sustainable, viable, and effective over the medium- to long-term.

## Population Health and Happiness

A comparison of the World Happiness Report 2024 rankings between China (60<sup>th</sup>) and India (126<sup>th</sup>) reveals significant disparities in reported life satisfaction, with India trailing by significant margins (Helliwell et al., 2024). Differences in overall satisfaction are also visible between social class and education level, confirming that there are large social inequalities to overcome to improve general well-being and long-term sustainable development in both countries. Furthermore, significant determinants of life satisfaction, such as self-rated health, felt discrimination, and contentment with living arrangements stand out as points of improvement. These findings point to specific areas that should be targeted for programs aimed at raising happiness levels in both. However, over time, it became clear that China's six World Happiness Report predictors were not entirely accurate (Wielander et al. 2020).

Along with the World Happiness Report, the Human Development Index (HDI) is a critically important metric for assessing a country's overall progress and quality of life. With an HDI of 0.788, China, which was rated 75<sup>th</sup> as of 2022, falls into the "High HDI" category, while India, which comes 134<sup>th</sup>, has a "Medium HDI" of 0.644 (UNDP, 2024). China's HDI growth rate of 1.02% is somewhat faster than India's rate of 0.99%, showing advancements in healthcare, education, and living conditions are occurring at a slightly faster pace in China.

### India's Demographics

India's public health is significantly influenced by demographic, epidemiological, and socioeconomic factors. Its 1.44 billion people make India the world's most populous nation in 2024. Notably, 41% of the population is under 19 years of age, with 25% being younger than 14 (United Nations Population Fund, 2024). Given this youthful demographic, investments in early childhood development, nutrition, education, and preventative healthcare are essential for the well-being of future generations. Infant mortality rates have decreased from 74 per 1,000 live births in 1994 to 37 per 1,000 live births in 2015, although rural-urban discrepancies persist. Similarly, reproductive health indicators show the strengths and opportunities in the healthcare system. The prevalence of contraception among women aged 15-49 is 51% for all methods and 45% for modern techniques (United Nations Population Fund, 2024). Adolescent girls' health is seriously

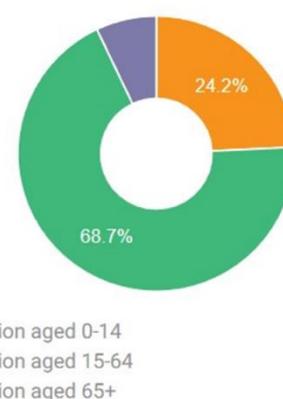


Figure 1: India's demographics in percentages. Source: United Nations Population Fund, 2024

threatened by harmful practices like child marriage, which underscores the need for comprehensive strategies that address gender-based violence, support girls' education, and enable women and girls to exercise their reproductive rights. Moreover, the age group of 10 to 24 years old, constituting approximately 26% of the population, requires tailored interventions to address various health challenges, including substance addiction, mental health, and reproductive health. India's demographic profile highlights that large majority of its population, over 68%, is between 15 and 64 years of age. This economically active group underscores the importance of promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing noncommunicable diseases, and guaranteeing access to high-quality healthcare services to bolster productivity and economic development.

### China's Demographics

China's population dynamics are undergoing significant changes, driven by an aging population, shifting fertility trends, and urbanization. With a population of 1.42 billion, China is experiencing below-replacement fertility levels, evident from a total fertility rate of 1.2. This demographic shift impacts labor dynamics, economic productivity, and social welfare systems. Male and female life expectancy at birth has improved to 76 and 82 years, respectively, due to advancements in medical treatments, disease prevention, and healthcare accessibility (United Nations Population

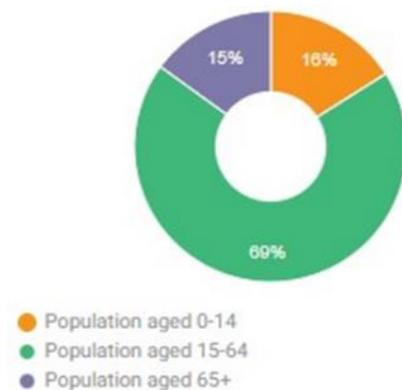


Figure 2: China's demographics in percentages. Source: United Nations Population Fund, 2024

Fund, 2024). However, there are differences between various socioeconomic classes and between urban and rural areas with respect to demographic indicators and maternal mortality rates, among others. Reducing inequalities, fostering social inclusion, and guaranteeing regionally sustainable development all depend on addressing these imbalances.

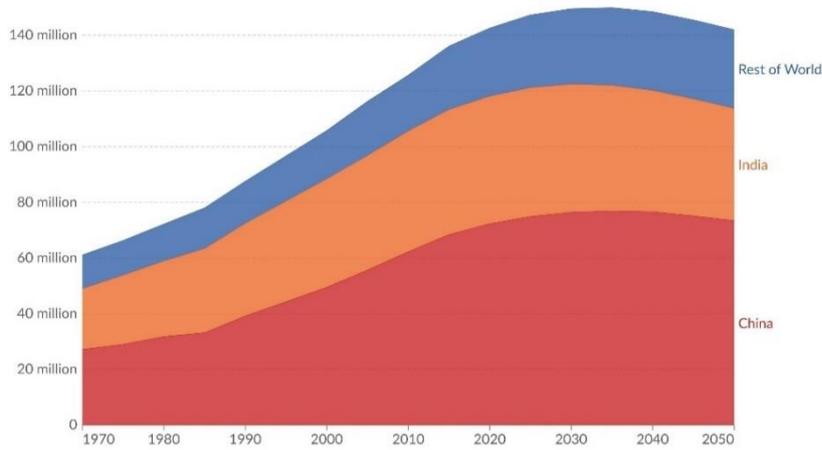
### “Missing Women”

The term “missing women” highlights the extent of discrimination against young and unborn females in both China and India (Sen, 2021). Approximately 100 million women are considered “missing” in India due to cultural practices of abortion, infanticide, neglect, and abuse of unborn and young girls. Not only does this gender disparity deny women their rights and opportunities, but it also has wider societal ramifications and seriously jeopardizes social progress and stability. Figure 3 below illustrates how Bongaarts and Guilмото (2015) claim

that the number of missing females has increased over the previous few decades, hitting 126 million in 2010, and that number is predicted to peak at 150 million in 2035. Despite the recent

### Number of 'missing women' in the world, 1970 to 2050

'Missing women' refers to the number who would be alive in the absence of sex discrimination. Missing women are the sum of women missing at birth (as a result of sex-selective abortion) and excess female mortality through infanticide, neglect or poor treatment.



Data source: Bongaarts & Guilмотo (2015)

OurWorldInData.org/gender-ratio | CC BY

Figure 3: Number of "missing women in the world", 1970-2050. Data source: Bongaarts and Guilмотo (2015).

growth in prenatal sex selection, excess mortality was historically the main cause of missing females and is predicted to stay so in the next decades.

## Crucial Elements of Risk

Gender imbalances in India and China, as depicted in "Too Many Men, Too Few Women," (Ravinder, 2018) highlight several multifaceted challenges and implications: a surplus of males can strain resources, heighten competition, and escalate crime rates, particularly in lower socioeconomic strata. Evidence shows the risk of increased gender-based violence and exploitation of women in areas with imbalanced sex ratios. Unmarried males, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, may face challenges accessing social safety programs and employment opportunities. Furthermore, long-term demographic repercussions such as decreased fertility rates, skewed age distributions and altered employment dynamics are crucial elements of risk for economic and sustainable growth trajectories.

## Political stability

### India

Score

**39/100** [What does the CPI score mean?](#)

Rank

**93/180**

Score change

-1 since 2022

Score changes 2012 - 2023

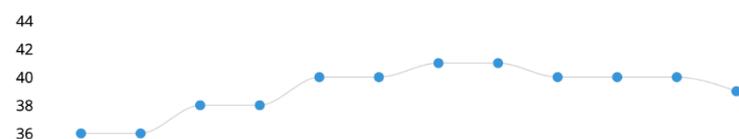


Figure 4: Transparency International

## ***Political Landscape***

India hosts a multitude of ethnicities, languages, and religions, which can lead to tensions and conflicts, particularly in regions with prior history of communal violence. India shows signs of minor challenges regarding government stability as for the larger majority, the government of Modi is considered legitimate apart from the areas in central India where rebel groups run parallel government administrations (Krtsch,2021), a case of regionalism due the disagreements in development and resource management among India's states fueling the demand for greater autonomy. Furthermore, the caste system (Blunt,2010) in India generates greater divide. However, a report conducted by BTI, the transformation index, showcased that there was a steady decline in the number of casualties due to governmental disputes (Stiftung,2022). India has held elections overseen by an Independent Electoral Commission, the caveat being the persistence of vote buying and bribery. In addition, the lack of impartiality by the commission has been influenced by money in politics. The lack of criminal charges brought on to the Members of Parliament is to be reviewed as the political process seems to be influenced by vested motivations. Despite India's constitutional right to freely express individuals' opinions there are some censorships imposed on the press and publishing freedoms.

To further expand on the point, by focusing on the concerning amount of censorship that has been present since COVID-19 pandemic imposed on journalists to self-censor critical reporting by large corporations mainly, threatening legal action against those that oppose to follow (Varshney,2022). Furthermore, although in principle the freedom to assemble peacefully is respected, there have been instances where the government has imposed restrictions targeting critics and opposing actors. Intimidations led by the Hindu nationalist group and cases of human right violations, including the incarceration of activists under antiterrorism laws.

## ***Legal and Regulatory Environment***

There is a clear division of powers between the judiciary and the legislative and executive branches. There have been instances recorded where the legislative body has not been impartial in their sentencing siding openly with organisations or governmental agencies (Nariman et al.,2017). The challenges imposed such as attacks from the executive, openly attempting to influence procedures and limited operational power due to understaffing has led to delays in hearings. There is a strong underlining of corruption in India that actively undermines the rule of law. The northern areas in India experience limited legislative aid as emergency laws are imposed. Corruption has tarnished the public perception and belief in

public services, police and public figures. Although India has developed anti-corruption initiatives, it has been met with criticism due to its lack of success. The loss of faith in protective services remains high as there has been instances where India's reported violation of human rights, such as custodial, police brutality, torture, reported rapes while in custody is most prevalent among underprivileged groups (Nariman et al.,2017).

### ***Government Policies***

The ministry of external affairs has been marginalised from decision making on foreign policy, mainly operating through a centralised decision-making approach (Alsagr,2024). This centralization will impact India's ability to operate in the geopolitical arena as it has negative outcomes in international relations. There are tensions between the central and state governments as both blame each other for interference and undermining autonomy. This sort of dynamic has greater implications, influencing the coherence and effectiveness of India's diplomatic efforts, especially in relation to intergovernmental cooperation and regional geopolitics (Gupta et al.,2021). In addition, the lack of stability has greatly diminished India's credibility and influence on the global stage. The approach in the way financing is collected for political parties and the creation of electoral bonds has greatly disrupted the trust and lead to an increase in corrupted behaviours. This is highly unfavourable as it may affect foreign investment, diplomatic ties and the reduction of geopolitical interests.

### **China**

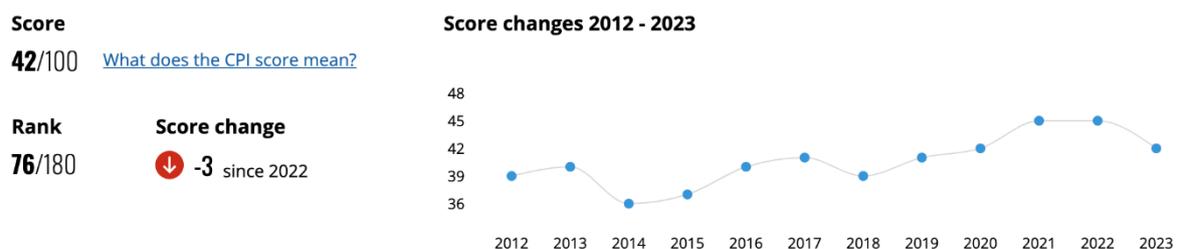


Figure 5: Transparency International

### ***Political Landscape***

Social protests and economic challenges within China continue to grow. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP's zero-COVID 19 policy, for example, led to wide-ranging political unrest across the country. The mishandling of the situations has led to some unwanted outcomes. Primarily being public frustrations towards the economic slowdown and the housing crisis, that has impacted political stability (Xie,2023). The efficiency of the government management has not been challenged, yet large groups within the population show discontent.

China's diplomatic relations with the West, especially amid tensions over issues like the Russia-Ukraine conflict and military activities in the Taiwan Strait, has influenced the public perception of China. The government's approach has had domestic and international repercussions as legitimacy and stability has been put in question.

### ***Legal and Regulatory Environment***

The party dominance and the continuity of the legal system integration has led to some fortunate outcomes as Xi Jinping's recentralization of power has marginally improved the limits of judiciary and the overall effectiveness of the legal reforms. Moreover, even if these changes aid the improvement of the legal framework the CCP still have significant influence over the judicial process and appointments. The president's anti-corruption campaign has targeted corruption within the legal sphere although it has not shown improvements in the overall judicial independence (Hope et al.,2020).

Despite constitutional guarantees of civil liberties, the CCP frequently interferes with rights such as freedom of speech, press, and assembly. The crackdown on dissent, including the persecution of human rights lawyers and religious minorities, reflects the party's tight control over civil liberties. (Pils, 2019) China's human rights abuses, particularly in regions like Xinjiang and Tibet, raise international warnings and have led to an increased negative perception of the country's legal and regulatory environment. The implementation of laws like the National Security Law in Hong Kong further exacerbates human rights violations and undermines legal autonomy (Karmazin, 2023).

### ***Government Policies***

Xi Jinping's tenure has seen a centralization of power within the CCP, diminishing the influence of competing factions and consolidating his own power base. Despite the existence of multiple political parties, loyalty remains at the core of CCP, which limits political pluralism and opposition. Groups with singular interest operate within strict boundaries set by the government, The NGOs strictly navigate the rules imposed by the state aiming to not stand out (Lu, 2023). While there is generally high trust in the national government, recent studies suggest a potential decline in trust levels, therefore, remaining relatively high compared to others such as India. The Social Credit System among the Chinese citizens is well received. Social capital is fostered through familial and community ties, with rural villages and urban residents' committees playing important roles. This policy is expected to shift the dynamic of discontent and foster greater support for the CCP.

## **Current Economic Status**

In assessing overall economic health, one of the most foundational factors to consider is a nation's gross domestic product. As of April 2024, the People's Republic of China has a GDP of 18.53 trillion USD and a GDP per capita of \$13.14 thousand USD (IMF, 2024). In comparison, India has a GDP of 3.94 trillion USD and a GDP per capita of \$2.73 thousand (IMF, 2024). China's annual GDP growth rate currently sits at 4.6%, while India's is 6.8%. These two factors show that while China has a much more developed economic base, but India's potential for future growth makes it a strong competitor.

However, GDP is not the only critical measure of economic health. Debt to GDP ratios show solvency and mobility in the face of crisis. Data from the IMF shows that India has a general government gross debt to GDP ratio of 82.5 % (IMF, 2024), while China's debt to GDP ratio is somewhat higher, at 88.6% (IMF, 2024). China's debt may be somewhat more stable as it is largely domestic and denominated in local currency (COFACE, 2024). However, "hidden debts" are held by many local Chinese institutions, which may pose a significant weakness for the overall economy (ibid.). India holds a low level of external debt and adequate foreign exchange reserves, making its public debt seem low risk (ibid.). On the other hand, weak public finances, best shown through a currently low tax to GDP ratio, paired with widespread poverty and inequality, act as significant challenges to the Indian economy.

According to Huang (2024), China has a consolidated budget deficit of 7.2 percent of expected GDP for 2024. This is an increase of 1.4 percentage points in comparison to 2023. No data on India's budget deficit for 2024 is available, but according to Reuters, the Indian federal government has a fiscal deficit of 6.4% of GDP (Acharya et al., 2023).

### **Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)**

Purchasing power parities are currency conversion rates that attempt to equalize the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating differences in price levels between countries. This macroeconomic analysis allows one to compare the economic status of different countries. In 2024, China has a purchasing power parity of 25.02 thousand international dollars per capita (IMF, 2024) and India has a purchasing power parity of 10.12 thousand international dollars per capita (IMF, 2024). This data implies that the Chinese productivity is more than twice as high as the Indian one.

## Foreign Direct Investment Inflows

In 2022, the foreign direct investment, net inflows of India were 1.5% of GDP, whereas the one of China were 1% of GDP (World Bank, 2022). Higher FDI in India is an advantage as it can maintain and promote

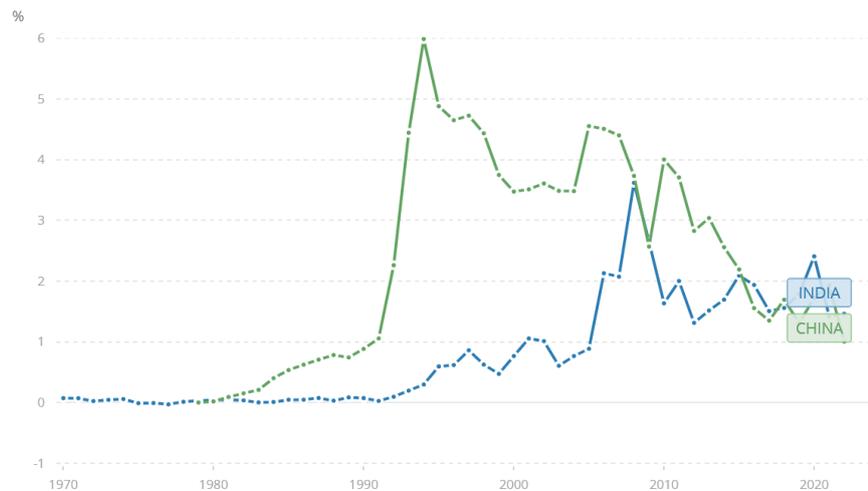


Figure 6: Foreign direct investment – India and China @data.worldbank.org

economic growth. At the same time, FDI can lead to a higher political risk as multiple governments with regulatory interests are involved.

## Unemployment and education

As of 2024, China's unemployment rate is 5.1 %, while India's is 6.8% (IMF, China Datasets; Forbes India, unemployment rate). China faces significant problems with youth unemployment (COFACE, 2024). After a record high youth unemployment rate of 21.3% in June 2023, China suspended reporting on the figure for six months, before resuming reporting in 2024 with dramatically

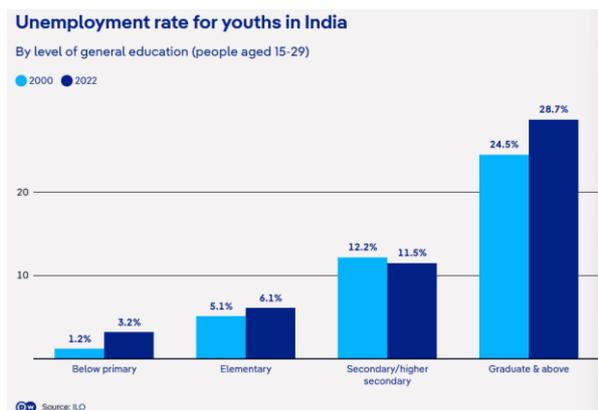


Figure 7: Sharma, India Employment Report 2024

altered methodologies (Goldin, 2024). The number of graduates is rising, but the job market fails to integrate them well. In 2024 nearly 12 million graduates will search for a job (ibid.). Another important factor for unemployment is the working conditions. Youths are expected to work from 9 am to 9 pm, six days a week (ibid.). However, India is also struggling with youth unemployment rates. In 2022, an estimated 12.4% of eligible young adults were unemployed (Sharma, 2024). Although the Indian economy is growing fast, it fails to continuously integrate young people into the labor market. One reason is that the Indian growth is mainly driven by the expansion of services sector which is less labor intensive than manufacturing sector. Another reason is missing jobs in non-farm sectors for more educated youth labor force, leading to graduates suffering unemployment after university. As shown in figure 8, the amount of

youths receiving graduate level has more than doubled in the rural and urban region in India from 2000-2022 (Sharma, 2024). The high youth unemployment indicates a non-inclusive growth of the economy. As a countermeasure, the Indian government increased spending on building infrastructure but the efforts seem inadequate. Despite the youth

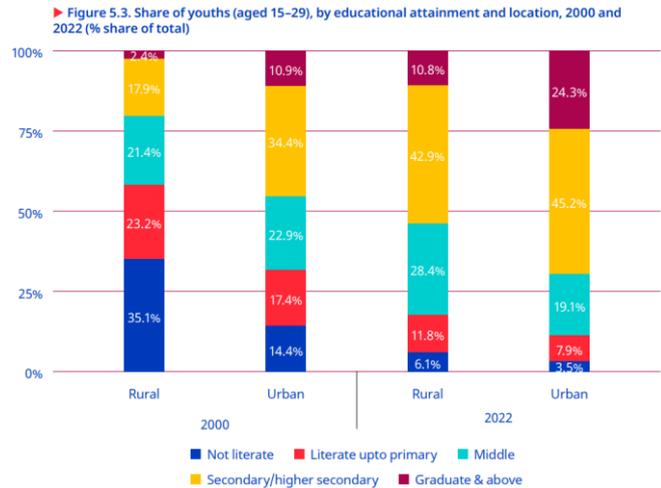


Figure 8: Sharma, India Employment Report 2024

unemployment, India has a low female labor force participation rate around 25% (Krishnan, 2024), whereas in China rate was around 60.5% in 2023 (World Bank, 2023).

### Projected growth

China and India have the second and fifth largest economies in the world as of 2024. In nominal and PPP terms, the two nations share 20.51% and 26.87% of the world's total wealth, respectively. Together, China and India account for more than half of all Asian GDP. The IMF projected growth in China is at 4.6 percent in 2024 and 4.1 percent in 2025, with an upward revision of 0.4 percentage points for 2024 since the October 2023 WEO. The upgrade is a result of higher-than-anticipated growth in 2023 and more government spending for enhancing resilience to natural disasters. India's growth rate is expected to stay robust at 6.5 percent in 2024 and 2025, up 0.2 percentage points from October's estimate for both years due to the country's resilient domestic demand. Although the Chinese is slowing down, Western governments increasingly view China as a competitor rather than an economic partner, and India is fighting to replace it as the global economic engine (Bloomberg News 2024).

### Population Growth

Together, China and India make up roughly 35.31% of the world's population and 60% of Asia's population. India has a population density of 485 persons per square kilometer, compared to 149 in China, making it three times denser than China (United Nations 2022). China hit the one billion mark in 1982, followed by India in 1997 (ibid.). India's population is 16.54 million larger than China's as of 2024, surpassing China in 2023. In the year 2022, China's population peaked and began to fall, and by 2078, the number of Chinese people may fall below one billion. Meanwhile, India's population is increasing at a rate of 0.90 percent and

is expected to do so until 2063. As previously mentioned, male population is higher in both countries than female population. India's sex ratio is 106.52 men to every 100 females, which is marginally higher than China's 104.1 (United Nations 2022).

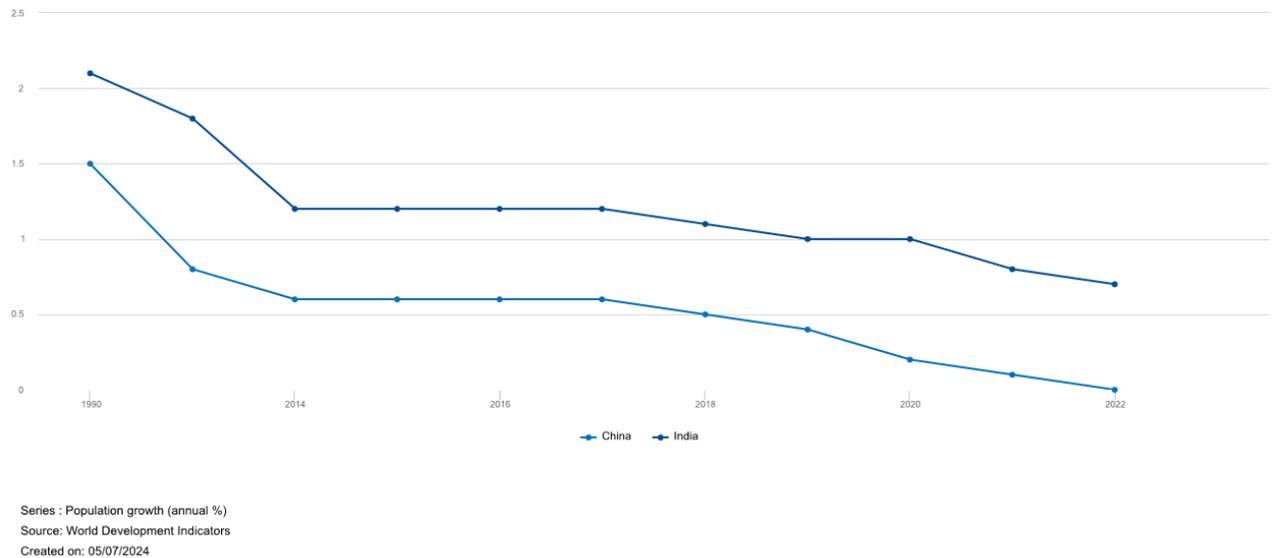


Figure 9. Population Growth 1990-2022, (Annual %), China-India, World Development Indicators.

## Infrastructure

China has been recognized for its outstanding infrastructure projects in recent decades, such as highways, railways, ports, airports, and telecommunication networks. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one of the biggest and most detailed infrastructure projects to date with aims to promote cooperation and connectivity among countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. (McBride, Berman, and Chatzky 2023). On the other hand, the problems of debt sustainability, the environment, and the socio-economic consequences of speedy urbanization linked to such ventures, as many stakeholders admit, are not less important.

As an emerging economy, India is also focusing on infrastructure development as it sees the enormous potential of infrastructure spending in keeping the economic growth rate on an upward trend while congruently enhancing living standards. Three major issues that need attention in India are investment in transportation systems, energy generation and distribution, water supply, and urban infrastructure. (Bloomberg News 2024).

## Public Health and Education

Data from the World Bank shows an increase in current health expenditure in China, from 4.47% to 5.15% during the period 2004 to 2020. In India, the current health expenditure

decreased from 4.03% to 3.53% in the same period. This decline is a dangerous trend for India, as their population is only set to increase over the coming decades.

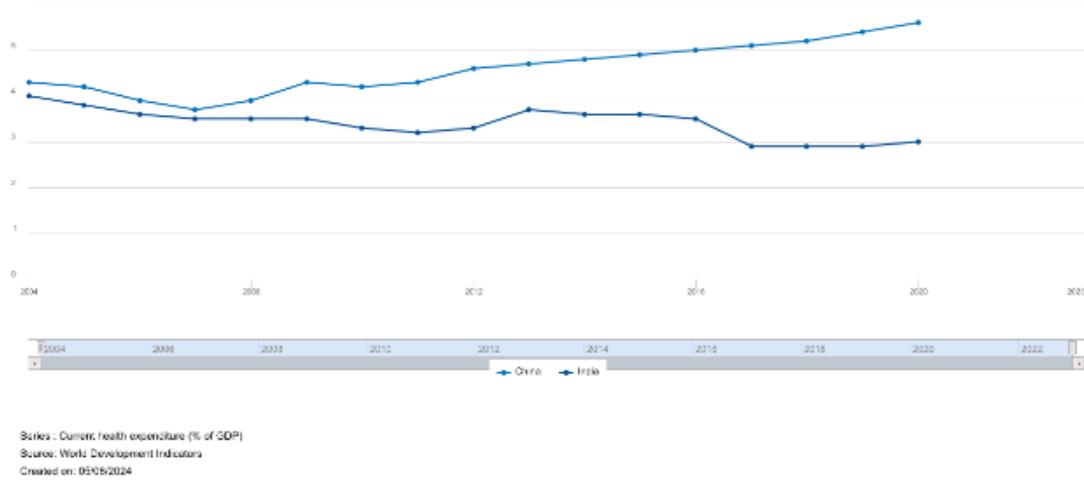


Figure 10: Current Health Expenditure (% of GDP) 2004-2022, China-India, World Development Indicators.

Government spending on education in India as a percentage of GDP has not changed over the last three years, despite the Indian government’s promotion of the 2023 national education budget as the nation’s biggest ever. The percentage of total government spending on education has grown somewhat, although it is still less than in 2019–20. This is likely because states that are struggling financially and receiving less tax revenue from the federal government are contributing less to education. Unfortunately, state-level appropriations for 2023 are not yet available to evaluate potential changes (Sahay 2023).

China’s public education budget increased to 4.12 trillion yuan in 2023. Although spending on education has been rising steadily in recent years, growth rates are still far lower than they were a decade ago. In addition to structural changes, there was a significant increase in public education spending. However, both in terms of number and quality, the entire educational system fell significantly short of international standards (Statista 2024).

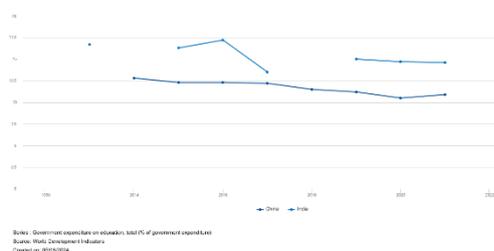


Figure 11. Government Expenditure on Education, (Total % of Gov. Expenditure) 1990-2022, China-India, World Development Indicators.

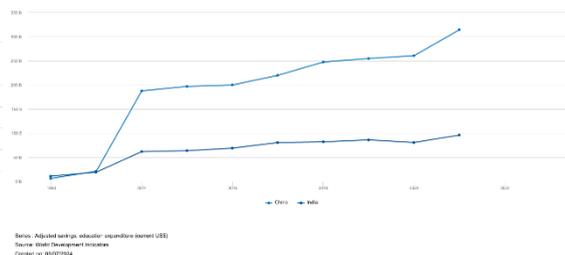


Figure 12. Adjusted Savings, Education Expenditure (current US\$) 1990-2022, China-India, World Development Indicators.

## **Recommended Investment Strategy**

With a focus on promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, this report has analyzed a wide number of factors with the goal of finding sectors in China and India with the highest risk, allowing the CSocD to make informed and effective social development investments. This report has found that India faces much higher risks to social development across the spectrum and specifically pertaining to the mandate of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the CSocD, but that it has a much higher risk environment. Despite this, our recommendations will focus on investment in the Indian economy.

Several significant socio-economic metrics highlight the necessity and significance of focused initiatives and investments in India. The prevalence of multidimensional poverty and deprivation across a range of metrics, including high levels of unemployment, gender disparities, low education, health, and living standards place India of 66<sup>th</sup> out of 109 nations in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2023). India's employment challenges are confirmed by an analysis of labor market trends. The most recent statistics show that unemployment continues to be a major problem, especially for young people and underrepresented groups. Women also face many obstacles in the workforce, as demonstrated by notable salary differences and labor force participation rates. Gender inequities and the "missing women" dynamics compound these difficulties. Educational gaps between urban and rural regions worsen these trends, restricting prospects for upward mobility and prolong poverty cycles that span generations. These factors, when combined with the projected growth of the Indian economy and population, indicate that minor investments now will have exponential impacts in the decades to come.

While employment and education are promising sectors for investment, India remains a high-risk environment due to a complex mix of political, economic, and regulatory elements. Risks and uncertainties about policy continuity and governance efficacy are brought about by political instability, which is typified by partisan tensions and ideological divides. Concerns over the protection of minority rights, particularly those of religious and ethnic minorities of Muslim, Sikh and Christian citizens, have been raised by human rights and activist groups worldwide. According to India's performance in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), corruption poses a serious risk to business integrity and undermines faith in institutions (Transparency International, 2024). The upcoming 2024 elections will further complicate matters of risk assessment as the outcome will have direct impacts on regulatory frameworks,

investor mood, and policy priorities. India has 969 million eligible voters this year, compared to 912 million in 2019 (Zargar, Arshad R. 2024), which highlights the scope and importance of the country's electoral process.

While investments in India may have higher benefits, investments in China may be less high-risk. As China is an authoritarian one-party state, it is currently relatively politically stable. Although the CCP holds values which are not in line with the CSocD, the one-party system has allowed the Chinese government to operate on longer time scales and without opposition. Further, China's economy has remained competitive in the face of multiple economic downturns and maintains an annual GDP growth rate of 4.6%. This means investments may face less political, social, or economic instability and disruption.

However, these investments may be less valuable to the CSocD's overarching goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all. India performs worse in multiple areas and investments may therefore lead to greater benefits. India suffers more social and economic inequality than China, and thereby specific support to elevate people out of poverty is a more crucial task for India than for China.

In addition, the CCP is less attractive as an investment partner as the one-party state largely disregards democratic norms and humanitarian rights. Due to its stable and repressive authoritarian nature, this situation is unlikely to change in the coming years. This fact is underlined by their geopolitical alliance with Russia and treatment of Uyghur minorities in Xinjiang province. Further, the centralized power of the Chinese government makes it impossible for the CSocD to directly distribute investments without interference from the CCP. Finally, the reported figures of China's economy must be seen critically as no independent proof of their correctness is possible.

This report has found that India is facing long-term and highly pertinent risks to social development and recommends direct investment in the Indian labor market with the goal of providing both education and employment opportunities for young, underrepresented, and impoverished citizens. Recognizing that many past programs have failed without local support, infrastructure, and initiative, this report recommends the three following investments:

### **1. Small Business Acceleration**

Invest in 'startup competitions' designed to provide seed funding and mentorship programs for innovative business ideas created and run by young Indians and minority populations in partnership with India's National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and the

Startup India Initiative. Funding should be allocated to startups with job-creation potential and a focus on sustainable development, with mentoring and training sessions designed to enhance participants' business acumen and overall skill. This investment would stimulate local entrepreneurship and providing tangible growth opportunities for underemployed populations across India.

## **2. Job Training and Skill Education**

Scale up skill development efforts targeting youth and vulnerable populations through partnerships with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and industry leaders both in India and worldwide. Assist in funding and modernizing vocational and career training centers that align with pressing industry needs while utilizing partnerships with industry and non-profit leaders to design curriculums and facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training opportunities. The CSocD can further deploy educators and experts to conduct workshops on essential skills needed in emerging industries.

## **3. Teacher Preparedness & School Infrastructure Investment**

Fund teacher preparation programs designed to enhance the quality of education in remote and underserved areas in India through collaborations with the Government of India's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program and nonprofits such as Teach For India. This can be done by providing UN certified educators, and teacher training seminars. School infrastructure is also a critical investment. Providing access to basic services such as on-campus housing and food, along with libraries, laboratories, and technology-enabled classrooms will allow for more conducive, healthy learning environments able to equip students with relevant and up-to-date academic and professional skills.

In conclusion, the recommended investment strategy for India focuses on three key areas: Small Business Acceleration, Job Training and Skill Education, and Teacher Preparedness & School Infrastructure Investment. These targeted investments promise substantial benefits by addressing the root causes of social and economic inequality. By stimulating local entrepreneurship, enhancing vocational skills, and improving educational infrastructure, the CSocD can create sustainable employment opportunities and promote inclusive growth. While India presents higher risks compared to China, the potential for transformative impact is greater, aligning with the CSocD's mission of fostering full and productive employment and decent work for all. This comprehensive approach not only aims

to uplift marginalized communities but also to build a resilient and equitable economic landscape in India for the long term.

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