



## Understanding/Context

Two decades since the Indian economy started to liberalize, which led to unparalleled growth, the country is facing new challenges. Growth has slowed, inflation is on the rise, voters are losing trust in their leaders and the confidence of investors is waning. Yet, India is expected to overtake Japan as the world's third largest economy by 2015 and surpass China as the most populous nation by 2030. The promise of favourable demographics, a rising middle class, improved trade relations with Pakistan, and a successful business sector indicate there is an opportunity to shape India's next wave of economic growth and transformation in international affairs.

## Shaping the Agenda

To address current challenges and shape India's next wave of economic growth and internal transformation, the Global Agenda Council on India has identified four areas where it can make a contribution: inclusive governance, inclusive growth, India-Pakistan relations, and gender issues in South Asia. Building on recent inclusive governance, transparency and anti-corruption efforts in India, the Council published a report in collaboration with PwC entitled *Transparency for Inclusive Governance* that was launched at the 2012 World Economic Forum on India. The report provides critical recommendations for policy-makers. On the issue of inclusive growth, the Council is developing an initiative entitled "Impact Investing towards Inclusive Growth". The initiative is intended to convene and help connect leaders in the fields of impact investing and social entrepreneurship to foster greater understanding of opportunities for impact investing in India.

The Council is also developing a student exchange programme and cross-border internships for college students in India and Pakistan. To raise awareness of the initiative, the Chair of the Council on India and the Chair of the Council on Pakistan published a joint op-ed in the leading Indian daily, *The Indian Express*.

**"India is expected to overtake Japan as the world's third largest economy by 2015 and surpass China as the most populous nation by 2030."**

The Council hosted a high-level roundtable in New Delhi on 27 September 2013 to contribute to an informed dialogue on impact investment. The roundtable highlighted the success stories of partnerships between big businesses and social enterprises. The Council will also continue collaborating with the Forum's Partnering Against Corruption Initiative to help develop inclusive governance solutions for India. To address gender issues, the Council will run opinion polls to capture male perceptions in India and Pakistan regarding women's standing in society. The results will be used as a basis for discussions on gender-based violence in the region.

## Contact Information

**Research Analyst:** Shubhra Saxena Kabra, Knowledge Manager, Global Agenda Councils, [shubhra.saxena@weforum.org](mailto:shubhra.saxena@weforum.org)

**Council Manager:** Akanksha Khatri, Senior Manager, India and South Asia Team, [akanksha.khatri@weforum.org](mailto:akanksha.khatri@weforum.org)

**Forum Lead:** Viraj Mehta, Director, Head of India, [viraj.mehta@weforum.org](mailto:viraj.mehta@weforum.org)