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Gallup India Briefing



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ARTICLE 1 OF 3

India's Youth Dividend: High Hopes for Today and Tomorrow

HIGHLIGHTS

- Young people in India see brighter future, job prospects.
- 85% of Indians believe children have opportunity to learn and grow.
- Satisfaction with education reached 83% in 2022.

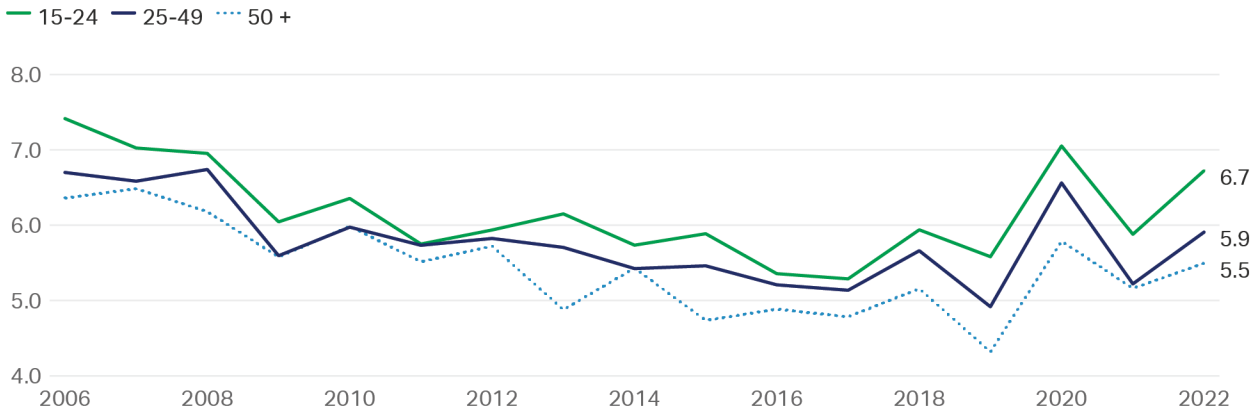
Worldwide, one in five people under the age of 25 live in India, and this age group accounts for nearly half of the country's burgeoning population.

As the world's newly minted most populous country forges its path into the rest of the 21st century, Gallup data show Indians in this demographic dividend are more hopeful for the future than they have been in most years since 2009, and more hopeful than older generations.

Youth in India See Brighter Futures Ahead

Adults were asked to rate their lives in five years on a 0 to 10 scale, where 10 is the best possible life

(results by age)



Quick Summary

After India gained its independence in August 1947, its population grew rapidly — almost trebling during nearly six decades. In the 1950s, the average Indian woman gave birth to over six children. India’s population grew by about 2% annually for much of the second half of the 20th century, giving rise to concerns about the repercussions of such rapid population growth.

These concerns are no longer seen as realistic. India’s fertility rate has fallen in recent years, with women now having an average of two children. Deaths have declined as life expectancy has risen, boosted by rising incomes and better access to healthcare and education. The population is expected to start slowly declining by the 2060s.

Today, Indians under 25 make up nearly half (47%) of the nation’s population. They will be a driving force in India’s economic development for decades to come.

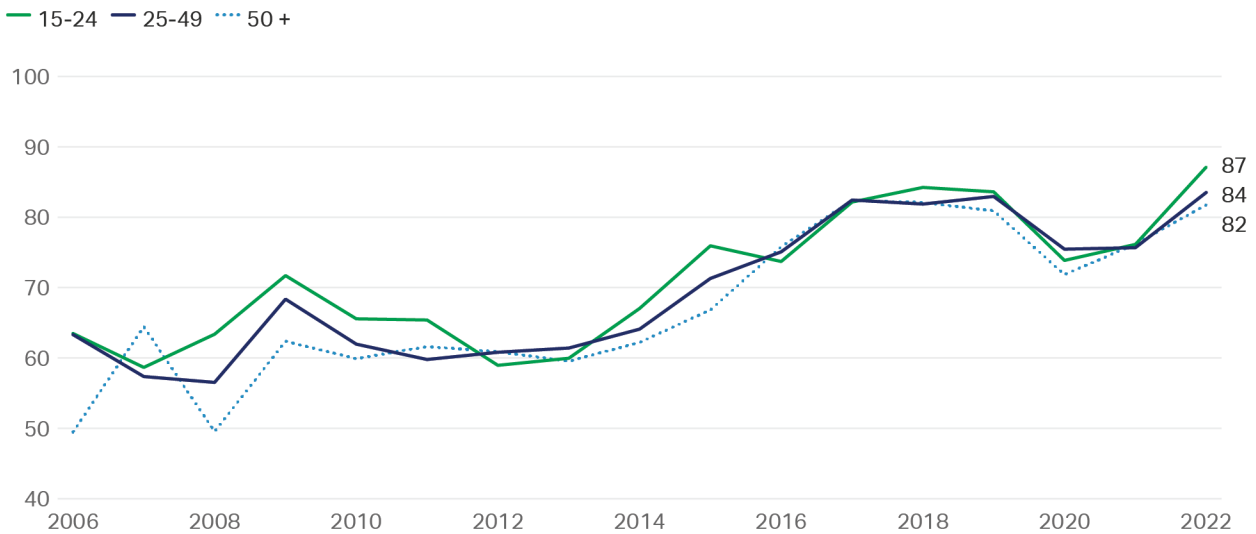
India Getting Better for Children

In recent years, more Indians have come to see their country as a good place for children — of which there are around 445 million today. In 2022, 85% felt that children have the chance to learn and grow every day, an increase of 28 percentage points from 2008. India is essentially tied with Bangladesh as the best place for children to learn and grow in South Asia.

This perception is shared among all age groups. Young and old alike believe India offers good opportunities to children. In the country’s south, where education and literacy rates are highest, 92% of people feel like their country is a good place for children to learn and grow.

India’s Children: High Point for Opportunities to Learn and Grow

% Yes, children have opportunity to learn and grow, by respondent age



Beyond being a good place for children to learn and grow, 86% of Indians feel that children are treated with respect. As India’s population continues to increase, promising steps are being taken to make the country a better place for its children.

Indians More Satisfied With Education and Connected to the World

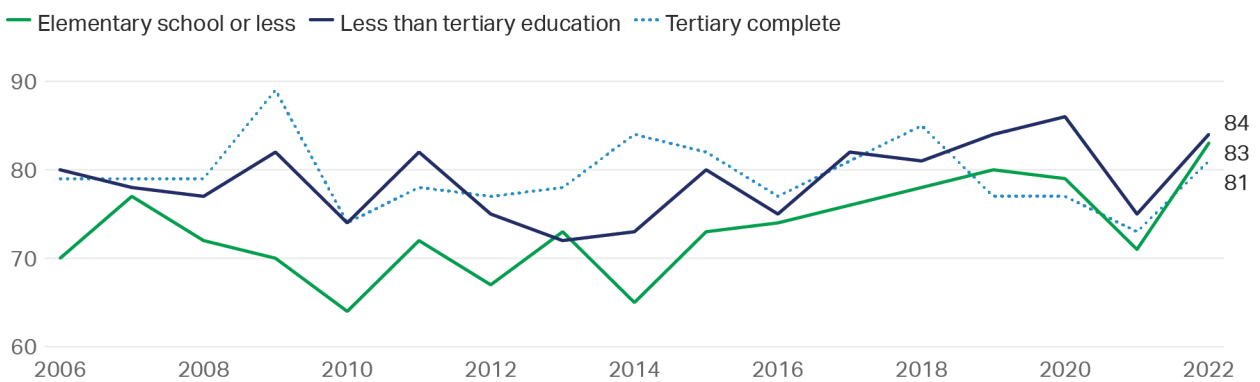
Satisfaction with India’s education system has also been trending upward in recent years, reaching 83% in 2022, partly explaining why Indians say their country is a good place for children to learn and grow. Indians who are satisfied with the education system are much more likely to think their country is a good place for children (88%) than those who are dissatisfied (68%).

As millions of young Indians grow up and enter the workforce, the need for quality education is ever more important in creating employable workers of the future.

Historically, those with the highest education level — tertiary or higher — have been more satisfied with India’s educational system than the least educated. But this gap has narrowed in recent years. In 2022, the least educated were just as satisfied with their education system as the most educated.

Gap in Satisfaction With Education in India Narrows

% Satisfied with educational system, by educational attainment



Young Indians are also far more plugged in to the world than their elders. One-half (50%) of Indians aged 15 to 24 have access to the internet (on a phone, computer or other device), compared with 11% of those 50 and older.

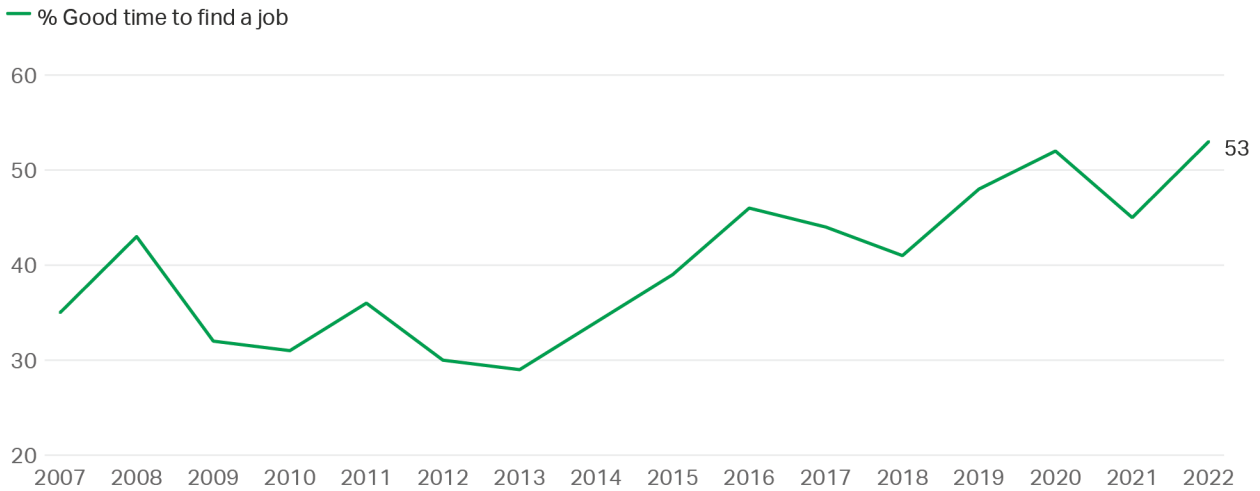
Likely as a result of better education rates and access to communications technology, young Indians are growing in their knowledge of — and opinions about — the world. Those younger than 25 in India are the most likely to express a view, or least likely to answer “don’t know,” when asked about the leadership of major global powers like the U.S. and China.

Youth Remain Optimistic About Job Prospects

Over the next decade, India's labor force is expected to grow by over 8 million people annually, driven by huge numbers of educated young people entering the workforce. Providing adequate employment opportunities for these people is a challenge, but also a huge opportunity, for the world's fifth-largest economy.

Majority of Indians Say Now Is a Good Time to Find a Job

Thinking about the job situation in the city or area where you live today, would you say that it is now a good time or a bad time to find a job?

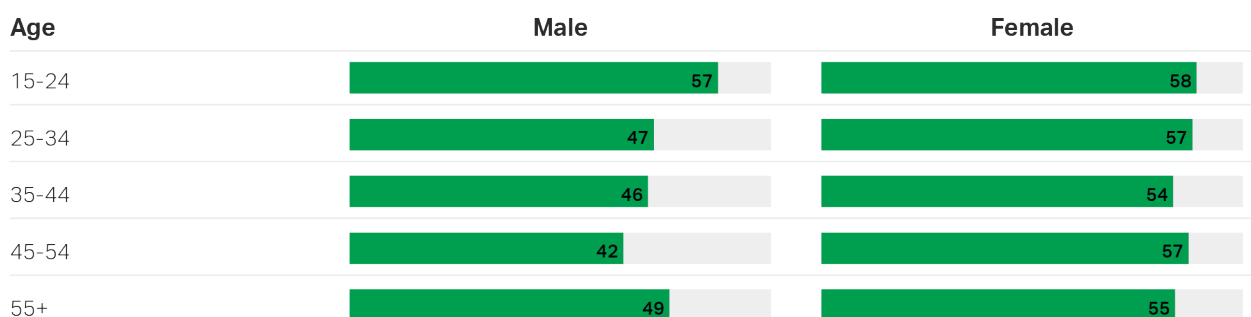


Even though youth unemployment is relatively high, young people remain optimistic about their employment prospects. Last year, 57% of Indians younger than 25 thought it was a good time to find a job in their local area, as high as it has been since 2007.

Women were more positive than men about local job prospects last year, reversing a long-standing trend. This is driven by older women, but India's young women are just as optimistic about their local job prospects as men of the same age.

Women in India Drive Positive Job Outlook

% Good time to find a job, by age and gender



Even though optimism about job prospects is widespread among young Indians, some regions are more optimistic than others. Indians younger than 25 in western India — more urbanized, and home to the financial hub of Mumbai — are more optimistic about their local job market than those younger than 25 in the east, north and south of the country.

Bottom Line

India’s population is set to keep growing for at least another four decades, putting its youth of today — and the children of tomorrow — at the heart of its future development and prosperity.

The signals are promising. Young people are more hopeful for the future than they have been for years. Indians, irrespective of their age or education level, agree that their country is becoming a better place for children to go to school, be treated with respect, and grow.

Despite relatively high youth unemployment, young Indians remain hopeful about their future job prospects. As education levels and access to technology continue to spread, the future is looking bright in the eyes of India’s vast young population.

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For complete methodology and specific survey dates, please review [Gallup’s Country Data Set details](#).

Learn more about how the [Gallup World Poll](#) works.

Survey Methods

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ARTICLE 2 OF 3

Indians See Brighter Economic Future but Feel the Pinch Now

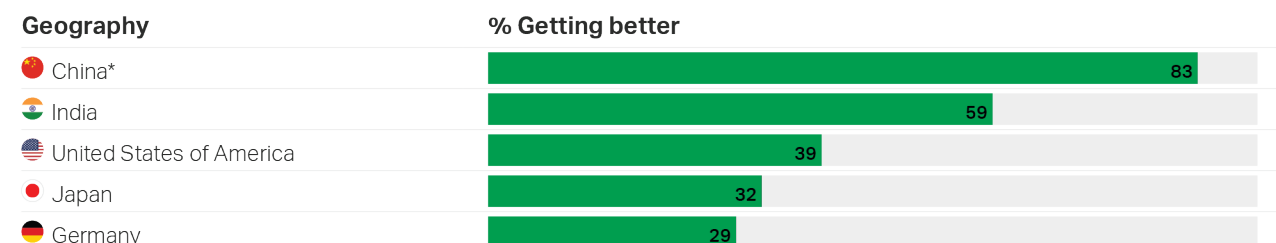
HIGHLIGHTS

- 57% in India see living standards improving.
- 43% struggle to afford food.
- 31% are finding it “very difficult” to get by, triple the 12% in 2016.

India, home to over 1.4 billion people, has the world’s largest population but only its fifth-largest economy. However, Indians are more optimistic than people in most other bigger economies — the U.S., Germany, Japan — are about their economic prospects.

Economic Optimism Higher in India in 2022 Than Other Major Economies

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the city or area where you live, as a whole, are getting better or getting worse?



* China data are from 2021.

Still, the Indian economy is not immune from brisk global headwinds that are affecting all levels of society. Over four in 10 Indians — or more than half a billion people — are struggling to afford food, and almost as many are having trouble affording shelter.

Quick Summary

India’s economy is the fastest growing in the world, fueled by high public spending, strong urban demand and foreign investment. Given its high projected growth trajectory, the Indian economy is on track to surpass those of Japan and Germany to become the world’s third-largest by the end of the decade.

Since 1970, India’s gross domestic product per capita has expanded rapidly, lifting millions out of poverty and driving progress on life expectancy and infant mortality rates. A recent United Nations report estimated that between 2005/6 and 2019/21, roughly 415 million people in India were lifted out of poverty. This economic growth has been defined by large shifts in the structure of the economy: away from low-productivity agriculture toward the expanding industrial and service sectors.

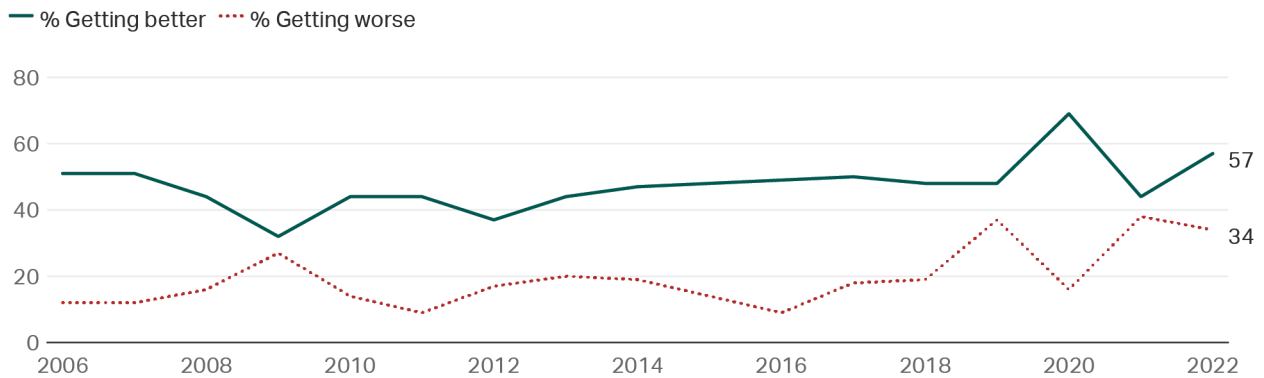
Recent decades have also seen a growing aspirational consumer class, with household consumption accounting for the lion’s share of India’s GDP. But many economists have viewed the Indian economy through the lens of untapped potential. India’s population accounts for over 17% of the world’s population but produces only 7% of the world’s economic output.

Economic Optimism on the Rise

Despite the shocks of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, India’s economy has managed to weather the worst effects better than most. In 2022, 57% felt that their living standards were getting better.

Majority of Indians See Living Standards Getting Better

Right now do you see the standard of living getting better or worse?



Even though the richest 20% of Indians were more positive about their standards of living than the poorest 20% in 2022 (72% versus 44%, respectively, said they were getting better), the perceptions of the poorest 20% have nevertheless been improving almost every year since 2016. Rural areas were notably more optimistic than cities or towns about their improving living standards (65% getting better, versus 51% and 59%, respectively).

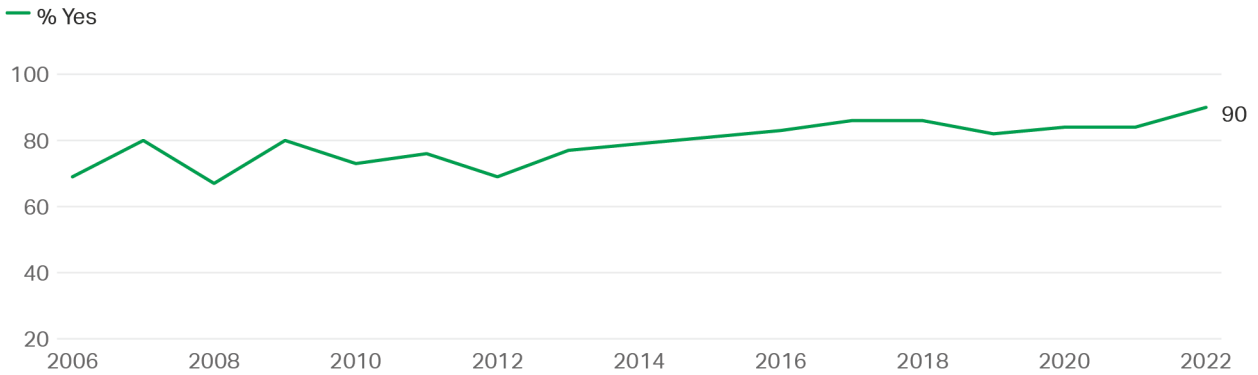
Perceptions of the local economy are also improving. Last year, 59% of Indians felt their local economic conditions were getting better, rather than worse (33%).

Across both measures — living standards and economic conditions — there has been a sharp drop in the proportion of Indians who feel things are staying the same. Most people feel like economic circumstances have been changing in decisive ways, largely for the better.

Improving economic perceptions have been buttressed by rising faith in financial institutions, which hit 90% for the first time last year.

Confidence in India’s Financial Institutions Reaches New High

In this country do you have confidence in each of the following: how about financial institutions or banks?

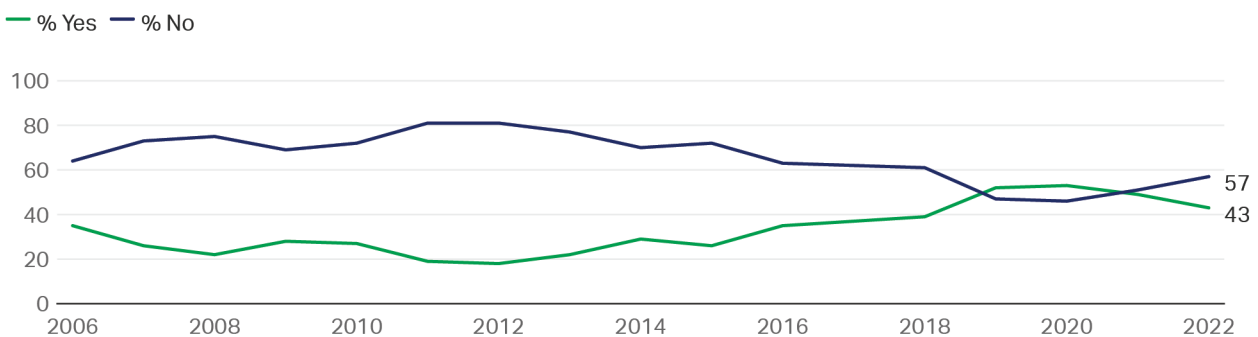


Economic Challenges Remain for All

Despite the widespread perception in India that the economy is improving, life remains tough for millions today. More than two in five people (43%) in 2022 said they struggled to afford food at times in the past 12 months, a fall from recent years but still high compared with the long-term trend.

Over Four in 10 Indians Struggled to Afford Food in 2022

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?

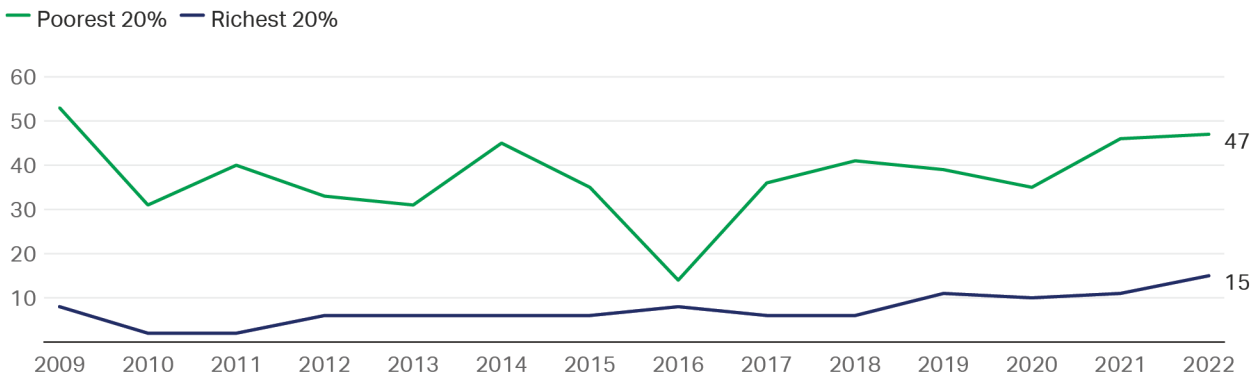


Inability to afford shelter tells a similar story, with 38% of Indians unable at times to afford it. In total, 26% of Indian adults — roughly 270 million people — struggled at times to afford both essentials of food and shelter.

The inability to afford the basics affects everyone, not just the poorest. The proportion of Indians who are finding it “very difficult” on their present household incomes reached 31% during the past two years, almost tripling since 2016 (12%). But recently, all income groups have been feeling the pinch. While people in the poorest income group are the most likely to find life very difficult on their income, 15% of the richest 20% still find life very difficult on their present incomes, a record high.

Richest and Poorest in India Finding It Difficult to Get By

Percentage of Indians who find it “very difficult” to get by on their present income, by income category



Bottom Line

India’s fast-growing economy is mirrored by the optimism of its people. But while there is optimism for the future, millions still struggle today. Rich and poor alike are finding it harder to get by on their incomes than in previous years.

As the economy continues to grow in the next decade and overtakes those of Germany and Japan, sharing the fruits of this growth among the country’s 1.4 billion people will be key if India is to live up to its economic potential.

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ARTICLE 3 OF 3

Is India Prepared to Change With Its Climate?

HIGHLIGHTS

- Majority of Indians perceive climate change as a threat.
- Big regional variations exist in how threatened people feel.
- Indians are more satisfied than ever with efforts to preserve the environment.

How India adapts to climate change will be critical for its future growth and success. A recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report painted a bleak picture for the world's newly minted most populous country, which faces several major threats from a changing climate that are already transforming India in profound ways.

Here are four key takeaways from Gallup's data and the Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll's data on how Indians view their natural environment and climate change.

1. The majority of Indians see climate change as a potential threat, but the perceived threat varies by region.

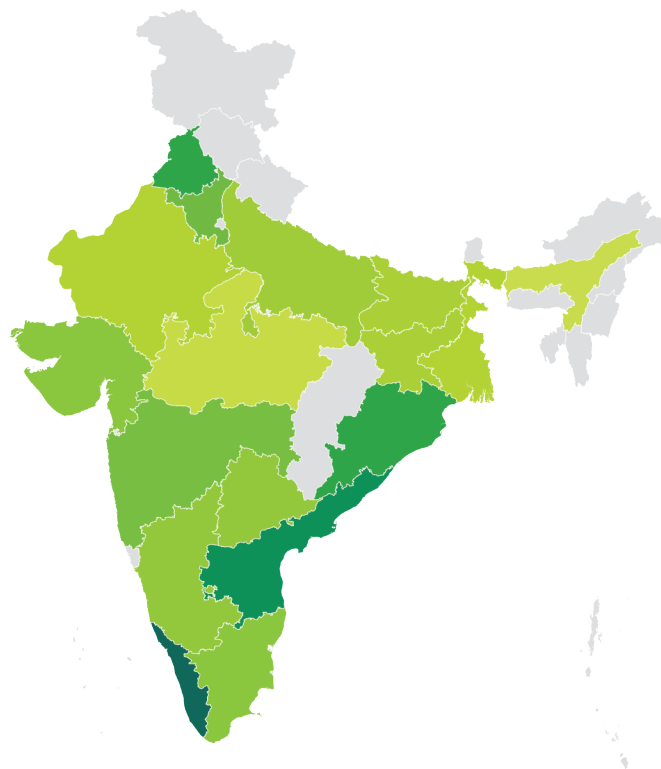
Roughly three in five (62%) Indians perceive climate change as a threat to their country in the next 20 years — with 37% seeing it as a “very serious” threat — according to data aggregated from the 2019 and 2021 Lloyd’s Register Foundation World Risk Poll.

But these perceptions vary by region. Indians living in the coastal state of Kerala feel the most threatened by climate change, with 92% of people seeing it as a serious threat in coming decades. Kerala is notably India’s most literate state and highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as flooding and landslides. People living there are also the most likely to express any opinion on climate change. Two percent of Keralans “don’t know” if climate change is a threat to their country.

By contrast, people in Assam and Madhya Pradesh are least concerned about climate change. In both states, minorities of residents feel threatened by climate change.

Climate Change Seen as Biggest Threat in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh

Do you think that climate change is a very serious threat, a somewhat serious threat or not a threat at all to the people in this country in the next 20 years?



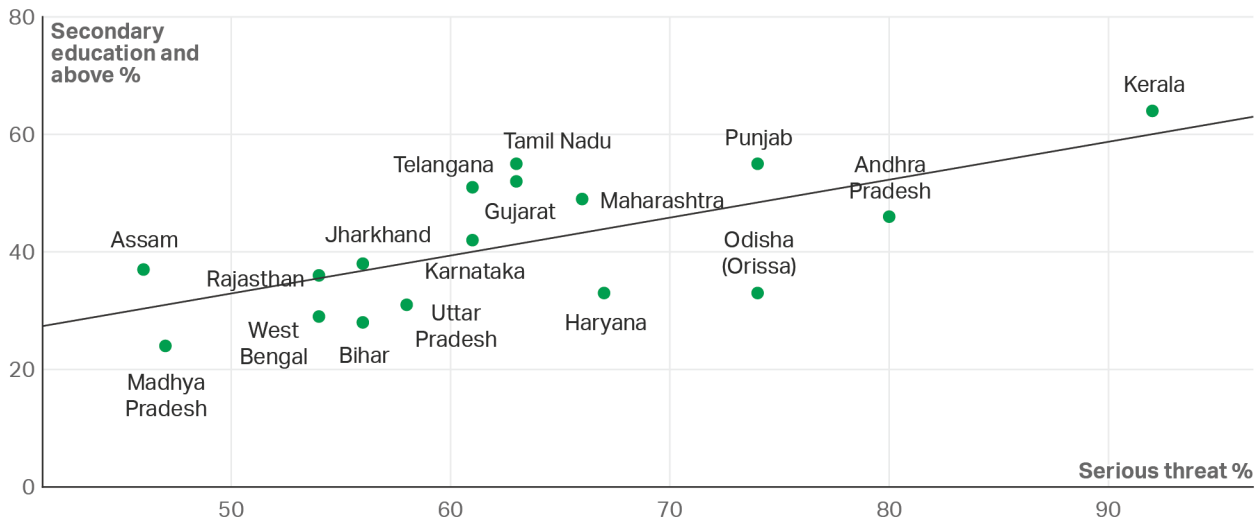
Lloyd’s Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2019/2021 aggregated data. Goa, Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh not shown due to low base sizes. Northeast states, remote islands, Jammu and Kashmir excluded from sample.

While many factors influence people’s attitudes toward climate change, the association with education is clearly illustrated at a state-by-state level. The higher the level of education in a state, the more threatened by climate change its population feels.

As literacy rates continue to increase in India, and the effects of climate change become more readily apparent to vast swaths of the population, it is possible that concern will grow further in coming years.

States With Higher Education Levels More Concerned by Threat of Climate Change

Do you think that climate change is a very serious threat, a somewhat serious threat or not a threat at all to the people in this country in the next 20 years?



Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2019/2021 aggregated data

R-squared is .68







2. Nearly one in five currently do not perceive climate change as a potential threat.

There is still a substantial section of the Indian population (18%) who see climate change as “not a threat at all.” This places India second only to Pakistan in South Asia for not seeing climate change as a threat in the 2021 World Risk Poll. A further 20% do not know whether climate change is a threat to India.

Nearly Two in 10 Indians Think Climate Change Is NOT a Threat to Country in Next 20 Years

Do you think that climate change is a very serious threat, a somewhat serious threat, or not a threat at all to the people in this country in the next 20 years? If you don't know, please just say so.

Among countries in South Asia

Country	% Not a threat at all
 Pakistan	23
 India	18
 Afghanistan	11
 Nepal	10
 Sri Lanka	10
 Bangladesh	7

Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2021

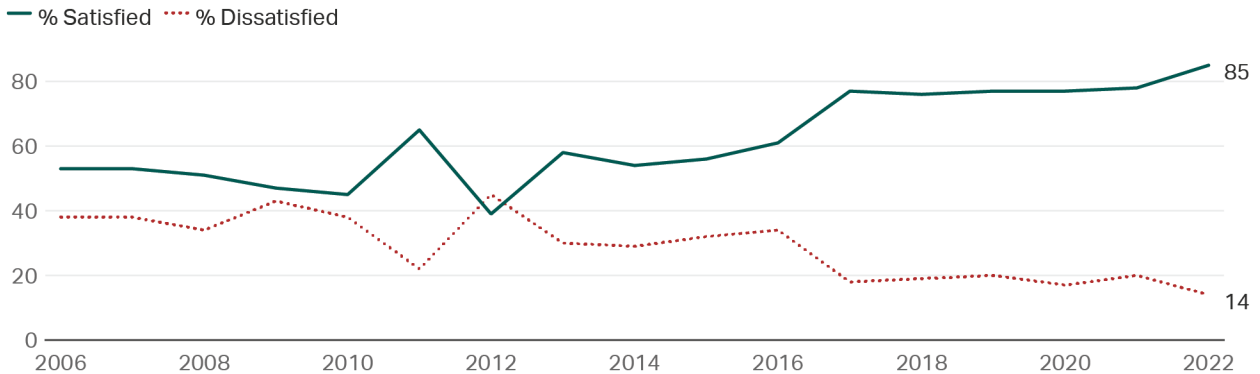
Not seeing climate change as a threat extends across demographic groups irrespective of gender, age, income or employment status. Even though there is a clear link between education and concern about climate change, there is still a sizable proportion (14%) of the most-educated group in India who do not see climate change as a threat.

3. Indians are more satisfied than ever with efforts to preserve the environment.

In 2022, more Indians (85%) were satisfied with efforts to protect their country’s natural environment than Gallup has previously measured since 2006, despite the numerous environmental threats they face. Compared globally, India ranks in the top 10 countries for highest satisfaction with environmental protection.

Most Indians Are Satisfied With Efforts to Preserve Their Environment

In this country, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with efforts to preserve the environment?

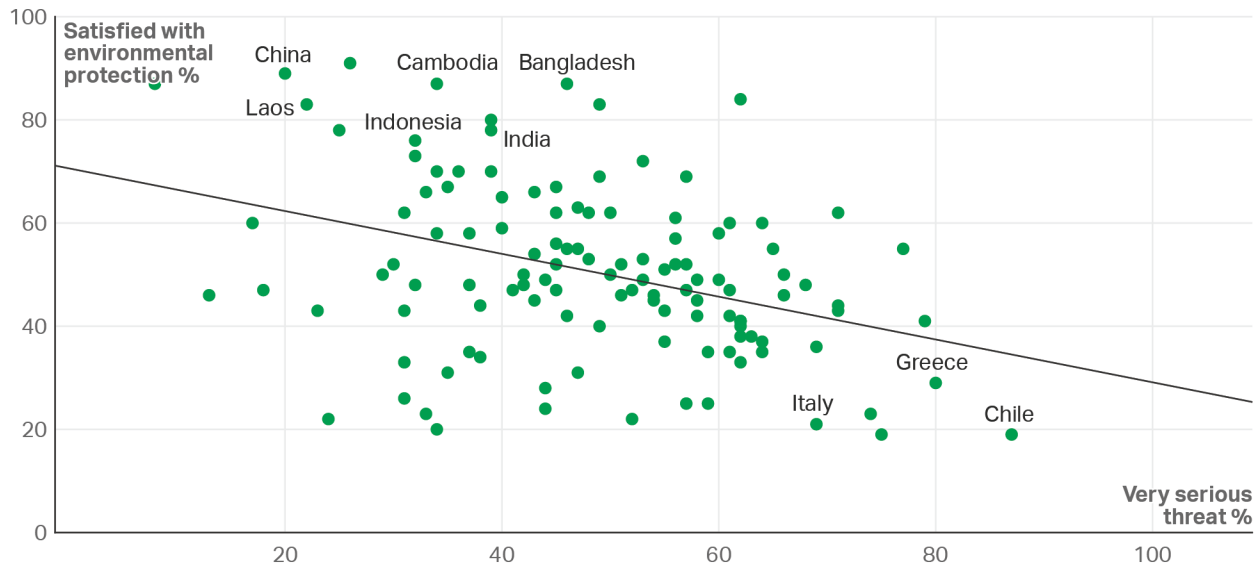


India’s environmental policy centers on protecting regional glaciers, reducing plastic use, producing clean cooking fuel and making the railway system more sustainable. Significant progress has also been made in expanding renewable energy capacity.

While the 2022 IPCC report noted that India performs well on emissions per capita compared with other major economies, others claim India is still not doing enough to protect the environment, particularly in its continued reliance on coal power.

Worldwide in 2021, there was a negative relationship between perceiving climate change as a very serious threat and being satisfied with environmental protection.

Countries Most Satisfied With Environmental Protection Efforts Feel Least Threatened by Climate Change



Do you think that climate change is a very serious threat, a somewhat serious threat or not a threat at all to the people in this country in the next 20 years? — Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2021.

In this country, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with efforts to preserve the environment? — Gallup World Poll, 2021

R-squared is -0.38

India is on a similar footing to other Asia-Pacific countries such as China, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Bangladesh, where majorities of people are satisfied with environmental protection efforts, but minorities perceive climate change as a very serious threat.

4. Indians are highly satisfied with air and water quality, but risk is spread unevenly.

Despite the challenges India faces from water scarcity, flooding and air pollution, most people were satisfied with the quality of their air (90%) and water (79%) in 2022. However, access to clean water is highly uneven in India.

According to the 2021 World Risk Poll, nearly one in four (23%) Indians were “very worried” that the water they drink could cause them serious harm. The poorest 20% of society were twice as likely to be very worried about their drinking water as the richest 20% were (28% versus 14%, respectively). Similarly, the poorest were much more likely to have been without clean drinking water at some point in the previous year (41% versus 21%).

Poorest Indians Most Worried About Their Drinking Water

In general, how worried are you that each of the following things could cause you serious harm? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, or not worried? *The water you drink*

Income group	% Very worried	% Somewhat worried	% Not worried	% Don't know
Poorest 20%	28	23	48	1
Second 20%	26	24	50	1
Middle 20%	23	21	56	1
Fourth 20%	23	20	56	1
Richest 20%	14	25	61	1

Lloyds Register Foundation World Risk Poll, 2021

Bottom Line

In the face of such widespread climate threats, India aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070, at which point its population is projected to exceed 1.6 billion. As its population and economy continue to grow, it will seek to maintain its good track record on low emissions per capita, relative to other major economies. The extent to which India expands or reduces its domestic coal production will be pivotal in determining the country's ability to change as the climate does.

There is still much more to do in raising awareness about the threat of climate change, particularly among the least educated and most vulnerable, who often find themselves most at risk from its negative effects.

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GALLUP®

World Headquarters

The Gallup Building
901 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

t +1.877.242.5587

f +1.888.500.8282

www.gallup.com