

1 100 413 189

## Global Economics Paper No: 187

Goldman Sachs Global Economics, Commodities and Strategy Research at https://360.gs.com

## India CAN Afford Its Massive Infrastructure Needs

- We estimate that India will require \$1.7 trillion in financing over the next decade to meet its infrastructure needs. This figure is considerably higher than previous estimates.
- A rising savings rate (owing to favourable demographics) and robust balance sheets should allow India to finance most of its infrastructure needs domestically.
- The domestic savings rate can reach 40% by 2016 and can be sustained at high levels for over a decade.
- Our detailed analysis of India's finances suggests that corporate, banking, household, government and external sector balance sheets are robust, and can support infrastructure financing.
- We expect returns on private investment in infrastructure to rise on the back of 'increasing returns to scale' and falling costs, as well as critical policy changes.
- India's infrastructure space is likely to remain a hot-spot for global and local infrastructure suppliers, investors and capital markets.

C 259995

Important disclosures appear at the back of this document.

## Contents

Introduction: Can India Afford Its Massive Infrastructure Needs?	4
I. The infrastructure need and its price tag	8
II. India can finance its infrastructure needs domestically	10
Projecting savings rates—the demographic dividend	10
What portion of savings can be used for infrastructure?	12
The government to remain the largest financier	12
III. India has the balance sheet strength to fund its infrastructure deficit	15
The household balance sheet—the main source of funding	15
The external balance sheet—room to grow	. 16
The banking balance sheet—still robust	17
The corporate balance sheet—itching to expand	18
The government balance sheet—the main risk	19
IV. Infrastructure can generate high returns	21
The power of increasing returns and the 'Can Do' curve	21
India's return on equity is high	22
Why infrastructure would be a good investment now	23
V. Risks and policy priorities	25
Conclusion	26
Box 1: India's infrastructure deficit	8
Box 2: Savings projections	14
Box 3: How other countries have financed infrastructure	20
Box 4: Recent initiatives by the government to boost infrastructure	24
Box 5 : Reform priorities	25
Appendix 1: Projecting infrastructure demand	27
Appendix 2: Debt sustainability analysis	29
Recent Global Economic Papers	30