Beyond "GDP Growth"

New Delhi, 1st October 2008

Pavan Sukhdev



Who (and Why) are We ?

The Green Indian States Trust (GIST), an NGO, was created to encourage India's policy and opinion makers to overcome their almost exclusive dependence on the archaic and limited economic compass of "GDP Growth" to measure and manage India's progress. GIST's vision is to create conditions for India to transit into sustainable development.

"GDP Growth" does not capture many vital aspects of national wealth and well-being, such as changes in the quality of health, the extent of education, or the quality and quantity of natural resources. Thus GDP accounts are inadequate to evaluate the trade-offs encountered by India's policy makers, and in the absence of an appropriate 'sustainability' yardstick,, the concept of 'sustainable development' in India remains at best an elusive dream. Visible symptoms of unsustainable development include large & persistent disparities in wealth levels between rural and urban communities, inadequate public investment in health & education, rapid natural resource depletion, and a widespread incidence of the "vicious cycle" of chronic poverty and environmental degradation in forest-dependent communities.

GIST thus promotes sustainable development by encouraging governments to make use of a holistic alternative - environmentally adjusted GDP. GIST has published a series of 8 monographs, under its Green Accounting for Indian States Project (GAISP), which adjust for externalities such as the un-marketed services of forests (carbon storage, bio-diversity values, ecological services, etc), the hidden costs of agriculture, losses in freshwater quality and depletion of sub-soil assets. Human capital externalities have also been evaluated and adjusted. Accounting and adjusting for externalities will make sustainable and efficient use of a country's resources.



"GAISP": 2003 to 2008



How good a measure of Well-being is GDP Growth ? some opinions

Partha Dasgupta & Karl-Goran Maler Environmental & Resource Economics : Some Recent Development (July 2004)

"GNP per head (or, for that matter, HDI) can increase during an extended period even while wealth per head declines. Studying trends in GNP per head, or HDI, can be misleading in regard to economic prospects that may lie ahead. They could also mislead if we were to assess the past economic performances of nations solely in their terms".

Bill McKibben

Deep Economy : The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future (March 2007) "Growth, at least as we now create it, is producing more inequality than prosperity, more insecurity than progressWe'll no longer be able to act wisely, either in our individual lives or in public life, simply by asking which choice will produce More."



Does Well-Being come from more Production? Or from more Capital?

Physical capital Natural Capital	Human capital	Social capital
--	------------------	-------------------

"well-being is not just growth, it is also health, environment, spirit and culture"

- □ Increase in *per capita availabilty of total capital* should be viewed as progress
- Conventional GDP indicator not concerned whether increases came at the expense of natural capital or human capital
- □ Real costs of depletion / degradation of natural capital is *felt* at the micro-level but not recorded by conventional GDP, nor brought to the attention of policy makers



How good a measure of Well-being is GDP Growth ? some examples

The following ARE included in computed "GDP growth" :-

□ increase in government and private spending on flood damage & drought losses

□ increase in medical spending on respiratory diseases

□ increase in spending on school & university buildings

□ the repair and reconstruction activity after the Tsunami

The following are NOT included in computed "GDP growth" :-

reduction of flood damage & and drought losses by increasing forest density & forest cover

□ reduction of ambient air pollution by using cleaner fuels, greening cities

□ increase in human capital (i.e. earnings potential) through education

□ the loss of lives and livelihoods due to the Tsunami



India's "9% GDP Growth" Obsession...

India can sustain 9% growth: PM

BS REPORTER New Delhi, 14 February

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today expressed confidence that, given the current rates of savings and investment, the country will sustain economic growth of close to 9 per cent in the medium term.

The Central Statistical Organisation has forecast 8.7 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current financial year. The investment and savings rates, at 38.5 per cent and 37 per cent of GDP, respectively, are at historic highs.

"Our objective is to ensure that this growth process is inclusive, in all dimensions, and can be sustained while holding inflation under check. It has been our endeavour to ensure that inflation does not get out of control," Singh said while releasing Business Standard India 2008, the first offering of BS Books, the books division of Business Standard Ltd. The 300-page book has 14 chapters, written by pioneering economists and administrators, many of whom are Business Standard columnists.

The prime minister said sustained development was not like going to a free dinner party but required sound macroeconomic policies designed to raise savings, investment and

The challenge, he said, was to get the policy right. "If we can get both politics and prices right, the economy would be on surer ground for sustained growth. That is not just a chalenge for political parties. It rather than seek is equally a challenge for those who are in the business of shaping mindsets." According to the prime min-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh releases Business Standard India 2008, the first offering SANIAY K SHARMA of BS Books, the books division of Business Standard Ltd

dians has been unleashed and is contributing to the acceleration of economic growth. bility of the grow

ister, the creative energy of In- economy like India's could sus- na, the Prime Minister said the two countries, in the years to tain fairly high rates of growth based on stable and sustained come, would be viewed as the growth in the home market, even new growth engines of the "It has been our endeavour if there was turbulence in glob- world economy. "We are not to ensure the long-term sta- al markets. "I also believe that yet there, but we will be. We





Our Bureau

RIME Minister Manmohan ditorium where a picture of Mahatma Singh on Friday expressed Gandhismiled down on the gathering confidence that the country will be able to achieve 9% growth rate. However, interest rate policy trustees of society. "Patriotism is not the would focus on holding the price monopoly of the political class," he line - growth cannot be at the ex- said, underlining the shift in ideology. pense of inflation which hurts the banias are no longer untrustworthy However, he also admitted the sincerely believe the government and ountry cannot be completely insu- business can achieve a lot by working lated from chilly global winds that together to create both income and may blow in its direction.

"I do not see a reason why we can- prosperity and progress. Our captains not sustain 9% growth even in the of industry have played a vital role in face of a global slowdown. The do- nation-building, I salute you and wish mestic economy has the potential to you all success." Mr Singh said. sustain such growth. The challenge before us is to ensure we tap into the potential and make it work for us," and, for the next five years through the steps would be taken to help the in- physical and social infrastructure that

dustry. He was addressing a gathering Speaking at Floci's golden jubilee aufrom the backdrop, Mr Singh echoed his theme that industrialists served as exploiters but partners in progress." employment, wealth and welfare,

He took pains to describe what his government has done over four years

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) and Ficci president Habil Khorakiwala at the inauguration of industry body's 80th annual session in New Delhi on Friday.

Some of you are not happy about of industry needs to sustain growth. The prime minister also explained emphasis on inflation control. I see why battling inflation was top priorithings differently. Inflation is an init ty of his government. "An important uitous tax. It hurts the poor more policy stance we have adopted to en- than the rich." Mr Singh said the go sure that growth is more inclusive has ernment's initiatives in agricultu been to keep inflation under check and rural development, infrastr

ture, education and healthcare, along Plan. He called it the most ambitious with efforts to keep inflation under check, would step up economic gro-

In all, prime minister's speech ap- ment's achievements in the infrapeared as an attempt at showcasing structure sector. "Iread a lot about the the UPA government as the rightful custodian of impressive and inclusive economic growth. PM gave his gov- ed airport modernisation, revolution erriment credit for higher growth and any transformation in railways and er growth rate for the period 1997 to inable to inspire They were prevarue vate sector for the undernrive

expansion in educational opportunities in the country since Independence. He also highlighted the governpoor state of our infrastructure. In ef fect, facts tell a different story." He cit

putting in place the basic architecture revival of private participation in necessary for ensuring the growth is power generation as key instances o broad-based. Mr Singh also cited slow- turnaround in infrastructure sector. In a positive signal to the industr 2002 to portray how previous govern- the prime minister chose not to mer ments failed to fuel the economic gro- tion his government's controversia wth. "The covernments of the day were proposal to impose job ouota in pri-

FICCI. 16th Feb 2008 increase in actual outlays in the 11th an idea whose time had come

"GDP Growth" is a daily mantra... but...

....Are we measuring what matters ?



Multiple Choice Question : Which of the following was achieved by 9% GDP Growth ?

- **9%** improvement in our citizens' *health* ?
- **9%** more *education either quantity or quality* ?
- **9%** increase in our citizen's *well-being*?
- **9% decrease in** *poverty* **?**
- None of the above ?



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"Beyond GDP" An International conference : November 19th & 20th, 2007, Brussels

"Because National Accounts are based on financial transactions, they account nothing for Nature, to which we don't owe anything in terms of payments but to which we owe everything in terms of livelihood."

Bertrand de Jouvenel, 1968



650 delegates (politicians, scholars, institutions, corporations) from over 50 countries supported the momentum to go "Beyond GDP"

Conclusion : "GDP is unfit to reflect many of today's challenges, such as climate change, public health, education and the environment"



Economic Times, DELHI, 15th Sept 2008 : Concerned over the growing alarm over global warming, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked the ministry of statistics & programme implementation (MoSPI) to work out a system for computing the country's green GDP. Value of the resources degraded or polluted in the process of economic expansion will be used as a deflator on the real GDP to arrive at the country's green GDP.

India's green GDP would be significantly lower than its real GDP since economic growth here is resource-intensive.

According to officials in the MoSPI, the ministry has also been asked to speed up work on the national database of natural resource accounting, the primary requirement for calculating green GDP. The green GDP numbers might form a part of prime minister's national plan on climate change, which seeks to promote sustainable development.....



Navigation Challenge Ahead !





... with a simple economic compass ?

Question : Are there any better quantitative measures of progress ? Yes, two...



Alternative 1 : Green GDP

- captures and integrates into National Accounts many significant externalities that are not reflected in traditional GDP accounts drawn up under the SNA (System of National Accounts of the UN)
- Includes the valuation of non-marketed services of environmental assets, calculating the real value of education as a generator of future income, and present-valuing future liabilities such as pollution abatement costs and health costs.
- Flow externalities as well as unaccounted depreciation / appreciation of capital Stock are estimated & internalized
- Economic modelling and Contingent Valuation techniques are used to quantify & price externalities
- For an accounting period, the exercise arrives at a revised value of net assets, and the difference year-on-year is a true measure of national savings, or "genuine savings".
- Alternatively, flow and stock adjustments for natural capital and human capital externalities can be estimated and posted alongside classical (unadjusted) annual GDP statistics.



Alternative 2 : Inclusive Wealth

- measurement highlights the importance of holistic measures of "wealth" and its average availability to citizens
- National wealth should include not just a measure of manufactured assets and financial assets (physical capital), but also natural capital (oil, other minerals, forests, freshwater resources, cropland, fisheries, etc), human capital (knowledge and skills), and social capital (institutional and legal infrastructure, political maturity, social harmony, etc).
- Contingent valuation techniques are used to price non-marketed assets such as natural capital and educational capital and liabilities such as future health costs
- Annual increases/ decreases in per-capita physical & financial capital, natural capital, human capital and social capital are estimated
- Sustainable growth is that which increases per-capita national wealth, defined in this 'inclusive' or holistic manner
- Green GDP" and "Inclusive Wealth" use the same "stock" or "national balance sheet" numbers, and can also be published simultaneously



"Green GD	P "	Stock Adjustments Flow Adjustments				
A division on	10	<u>2002-03</u>	Assam	Himachal	Bihar	India
Adjustments		(INR Mio / % of NDP or NSDP)				
		GSDP or GDP	354,314 100.0%	159,460 100.0%	897,150 100.0%	19,295,454 100.0%
		NSDP or NDP	317,208 89.5%	142,024 89.1%	787,033 87.7%	17,083,824 88.5%
M2		Agriculture Losses - Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, Quantity changes	-4,980 -1.6%	-1,135 -0.8%	-12,054 -1.5%	-258,605 -1.5%
		Agriculture - Subsidies	-9,670 -3.0%	-2,604 -1.8%	-21,457 -2.7%	-312,634 -1.8%
<u>Source :</u> Monographs # 2,1,7,4,8	M 1	Forests - Depletion of Timber/Carbon, Fuelwood, NTFP	-663 -0.2%	-51,394 -36.2%	-1,032 -0.1%	-74,639 -0.4%
		Forests - understated services of Timber/carbon, Fuelwood, NTFP	1,703 0.5%	56,539 39.8%	-11,683 -1.5%	154,524 0.9%
	М7	Forests - Ecological Services Lost	-21,624 -6.8%	-10,470 -7.4%	-3,287 -0.4%	-190,403 -1.1%
		Forests - unstated benefits of Ecological Services	8,064 2.5%	5,274 3.7%	8,119 1.0%	225,504 1.3%
	М4	Forests - Depletion of ecotourism and bioprospecting	-23,660 -6.7%	-13,078 -8.2%	-2,711 -0.3%	-461,525 -2.4%
		Forests - unstated ecotourism and bio-prospecting benefits	9,356 2.6%	632 0.4%	2,529 0.3%	137,144 0.7%
	M8	Freshwater - Water Quality Losses	-4,294 -1.4%	-13,808 -9.7%	-42,755 -5.4%	-586,586 -3.4%
		Stock Adjustments	-55,221 -17%	-89,885 -62%	-61,839 -8%	-1,571,758 -9%
GIST Green Indian States Trust		Flow Adjustments	9,453 3%	59,841 42%	-22,492 -3%	204,538 1%

India's Natural Resource Losses, measured in GDP terms

(Net Resource Loss Adjustments as % of Gross State Domestic Product ; 2002-03 ; "Floor values")

Natural Resource State	Fresh- water	Forest Biomass	Forest Bio- diversity ('use values' only)	Forest Eco- Services	Capital Loss (as % of GSDP)
	Freshwater Quality	Timber, Fuel- wood, Carbon storage, NTFP	Eco-Tourism, Bio-prospecting	Water storage, Flood control, Topsoil retention	
Bihar	- 5.4 %	- 4.7 %	- 0.0 %	- 0.4 %	- 10.5 %
Himachal	- 9.7 %	- 2.0 %	- 7.8 %	- 7.4 %	- 26.9 %
Goa	-17.6 %	+0.4 %	-1.7 %	- 5.1 %	-24.0 %
Uttar Pradesh	- 17.5 %	- 0.1 %	-1.4 %	- 1.8 %	-20.8 %
India	-3.4 %	+0.4 %	-1.7 %	+0.5 %	- 4.2 %

Source : GIST's "Green Accounting for Indian States Project" (GAISP) Monographs # 1, 4, 7, & 8.

Note : for forest services, these are **net** 2002/03 GSDP adjustments, i.e. **after positive adjustments** for unaccounted service flows... i.e. stock losses from deforestation (**net** of re-growth) exceed flows



India's Natural Resource Losses, measured in GDP terms

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Himachal	- 9.7 %	- 2.0 %	- 21.8 %	- 7.4 %	- 40.9 %
Goa	-17.6 %	+0.4 %	-20.9 %	- 5.1 %	- 43.2 %
Uttar Pradesh	- 17.5 %	- 0.1 %	- 8.7 %	- 1.8 %	- 28.1 %
India	-3.4 %	+0.4 %	-1.7 %	+0.5 %	- 4.2 %

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Some practical applications of our approach.....

- 1. Benchmarks for transfers between states (eg: Himachal /...) and between neighboring countries (eg: Nepal / India) through Payments for Ecosystem Services agreements ("PES") for downstream water provision and regulation
- 2. indicative sectoral returns on investment, to improve budgetary allocations to those areas with the biggest "bang for the buck" for society as a whole (eg : Education, Forests, etc)
- 3. benchmarks for calculating the cost-benefit of major projects (eg : big dams)
- 4. benchmarks for calculating compensatory afforestation rates ...



Mean Annual income of persons for different educational level by age cohort for the year 1998





Gross human capital formation/Expenditure allocated on education



Example : The Global Loss of Fisheries



Perverse Subsidies are a key driver of the loss of fisheries

□ Half of wild marine fisheries are fully exploited, with a further quarter already over-exploited

□ at risk : \$80-100 billion income from the sector

□ at risk : est. 27 million jobs

□ but most important of all.....

at risk : Health ... over a billion rely on fish as their main or sole source of animal protein, especially in developing countries.



Source: Ben ten Brink (MNP) presentation at the Workshop: The Economics of the Global Loss of Biological Diversity 5-6 March 2008, Brussels, Belgium. Original source: Pauly

Linkages between forests and food security

Direct Linkages

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Fisheries
- 3) Forest food, &
- 4) Energy

Indirect Linkages

- The moisture and nutrient leaching from adjoining forests maintains the fertility of agricultural fields.
- Aquifers and rivers fed by forests are often the only source of irrigation for poor farmers.
- Windbreaks and shelterbelts protect crops from drying and damaging winds.
- Avifauna controls rodent and insect species.
- Source of fodder for feeding livestock and potential storehouses of biodiversity.
- regulating the volume and fluctuations of stream flows
- provide a shaded riparian environment favorable for the development of smaller life forms on which fish feed.
- Mangrove swamps provide habitat and nurseries for many fish species.
- Forests maintain potable water due to the filtering capacity of rich humus.



Forests and the Poor

- Forest foods guard against food insecurity.
- Value of ntfp's harvested can be substantial (one study estimates 48% of total income).
- Provide cash income to locals through sale of ntfp's, especially when crops fail. (i.e. it means a much larger value for poor households than simple economics suggest.)
- Provide timber for construction,
- Fodder for animals (30 per cent of fodder requirements are met by grazing in forests).
- Fuel wood for energy needs & not just for the poor (At present, fuel wood accounts for 20-30 per cent of all energy used in India)



"GDP of the Poor"

Gross domestic product in India (2003) (INR millions)	24,695,640 (617,391\$)
Contribution of agriculture, forestry, livestock and fishing (INR millions)	5,054,988 (126,374\$)
Of which contribution by the poor (per hectare value multiplied with area of small holdings / less than 1 ha) (INR millions)	1,140,987
Percentage contribution of agriculture, forestry and fishing to GDP	20.5
Population dependent on agriculture, forestry and fishing in India	543
Of which poor (60% of people dependent on agriculture have less than 1 ha holdings)	(478)
Per capita agricultural GDP of the poor	2,387 (60\$)
Per capita GDP for the rest of the population (less GDP of the poor and rest of the population 700 million)	33,649 (841\$)
Adjustments for Unrecorded timber and fuel wood from forestry GDP (INR millions)	154,521 (3,863\$)
Adjustments for contribution of ntfps to the economy (INR millions)	41,890 (1,047\$)
Adjustments for ecotourism and biodiversity values (INR millions)	242,953 (6,073\$)
Adjustments for other ecological services (INR millions)	225,504 (5,638 \$)
Adjusted contribution of agriculture, forestry and fishing to GDP (INR millions)	1,805,855 (7.3% of GDP)
Per capita adjusted agricultural GDP for the dependent population (in INR)	3,778 (94\$)
Per capita adjusted GDP for the entire population (in INR)	24,093 (602\$)
Equity adjusted cost per person for agriculture dependent community (in INR)	5,038 (126\$)

□ Example : 2002-03 , from GAISP

540 Million engaged in farming, animal husbandry, informal forestry, fisheries

□ ESS add "only 7.3%" to classical GDP, *or*

□ ESS add 57 % to "GDP of the Poor"

Replacement of those ESS would be beyond the capacity of the poor



Beyond "GDP Growth" ?

India can sustain 9% growth: PM

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"Our objective is to ensure that this growth process is inclusive, in all dimensions, and can be sustained while holding inflation under check. It has been our endeavour to ensure that inflation does not get out of control," Singh said while releasing Business Standard India 2008, the first offering of BS Books, the books division of Business Standard Ltd. The 300-page book has 14 chapters, written by pioneering, economists and administrators, many of whom are Business Standard columnists.

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BS Books, 15th Feb 2008 and politically desta consequences," he sa He said a large con



"GDP Growth" is our daily mantra... but

Are we measuring what matters ?

Are we measuring what we manage ?



Can we go "Beyond GDP Growth" before it is too late ?

- □ Construct "Green GDP" Time Series : 2004-05, 2006-07,.....
- □ Publish this "Green GDP" every 2 years
- □ Calculate Sensitivity to Social Discount Rates
- □ Calculate Sensitivity "Median values" vs "Floor Values"
- □ Agriculture : Fertilizers and Pesticides impacts
- □ State-specific Assessments and 'Green GDP'
- **Research & design a Bihar-Nepal "PES" Agreement**
- Design a "Corporate Green Accounts" template
- □ And....
- **Raise Money for all of the above !**



Thank You !



Conclusion : "GDP is unfit to reflect many of today's challenges, such as climate change, public health, education and the environment"

650 delegates (politicians, scholars, institutions, corporates) from more than 50 countries supported the momentum to go "Beyond GDP"

- short term: raise awareness by Human Development Index and Ecological Footprint
- long term: strive for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
- set of key indicators capturing
 - social cohesion,
 - good governance and
 - well-being
- well-being is not just growth, it is also health, environment, spirit and culture
- UN 2011 milestone of standard environmental accounts
- policy and business:
 - "triple bottom-line accounting" deals with people, planet and profits
 - integration of social and environmental factors reduce risk to reputation and costs
 - wealth of corporation is more then the stock price



Appendix 2 : Some Agricultural facts

- □ Per capita availability of agricultural land \downarrow from 0.48 ha in 1951 0.14 ha in 2001 (a decline to under 1/3rd ...)
- □ Food grain production ↑ from 50 MT in the 1950s 209 MT in 2001 (an increase of 4 x)
- □ Fertilizer consumption ↑ from 0.3 MT in the 1960s 16 MT in 2001 (an increase of 53 x)
- □ Pesticide consumption ↑ from 2353 T in the 1960s to 48 350 T in 2001(an increase of 20x)
- $\square \uparrow in use \rightarrow serious environmental degradation$
- □ 53% of all land (around 174 M ha) suffers from varying degrees of degradation
- □ The average loss of topsoil due to erosion is 19.6 t/ha

Direct bearing on food production and livelihood of the poor



measures the total human capital by the total discounted values of his expected future stream of earnings in his lifetime.

- Forward-looking (prospective) because it focuses on expected returns to investment.
- Jorgenson and Fraumeni (1989, 1992) the most comprehensive study to date
- They define the "investment in human capital in any year as the sum of lifetime incomes for all individuals born in that year and all immigrants plus the imputed labor compensation for formal schooling for all individuals enrolled in the school".



Average wage cannot be used - factors such as skills, parental background and quality of schooling, etc. cannot be observed using wages

Following approach adopted

Step 1:

we used the Mincerian earning function approach.

The wage of an individual is assumed to depend on level of schooling, skills possessed, technical qualifications, on-job training (job experience is used as a proxy) and other socioeconomic characteristics that represent the innate abilities of the individual

Step 2: From this earning function we estimated the marginal rate of return for different levels of schooling and obtain the predicted wages for different age cohorts by educational levels



Appendix 3 – Cont'd

Percapital human capital and human capital accumulation



Appendix 3 – Cont'd Comparision with national accounting indicators (GSDP, HCF)



State domestic product adjusted for human capital accumulation/state domestic product
Human capital formation as a ratio of gross fixed capital formation



Gross fixed capital formation/Gross state domestic product

Agriculture - Main workers

Cultivators - 103 million - of which less than 1 ha holdings 60%

Agricultural labourers- 63 million - all considered poor

Agriculture - Marginal workers - all considered poor Cultivators - 24 million Agricultural labourers - 43 million

Fishing, hunting, plantation and other activities - 10.3 million (as per census 2001) but studies vary in their estimates

Forest dependent population (from FAO study) - 275 million

Total - 477 million (approx)



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