



### India awakening: a force to reckon with

India's economy is on the rise, with a rapidly growing middle class driving growth. Supported by the world's largest workforce and underpinned by ongoing financial reforms, its accelerating economy is projected to soon rival the U.S. and China as the world's largest – making India a compelling destination for Canadian investors.

# The world's third-largest economy by 2050<sup>1</sup>

India's growth has been outpacing almost any other country in the world, with the Indian middle class expected to swell to half a billion people.

In fact, India's annual gross domestic product (GDP) could be 11 times larger by 2050, making it the world's third-largest economy after China and the United States.



#### Average estimated GDP growth per year: 2016 to 2050<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: PWC report, "The World in 2050", GDP based on Market Exchange Rate

## The three main drivers of India's growth

#### 1. Favourable demographics – the world's largest workforce

By 2050, India is anticipated to have the largest workforce in the world with 926 million people<sup>2</sup>. This will dramatically increase consumption and personal wealth. Moreover, as India grows richer, it will attract foreign capital and increasingly generate opportunities to create wealth.



#### Working population (age 20-59 years) in 2050

#### 2. Government reforms – opening the door to investors

Since 1991, successive Indian governments have introduced financial reforms, with improved governance, giving investors increased certainty.

Recent reforms, including the introduction of a GST tax and changes to the bankruptcy code, have demonstrated the government's continuing commitment to improving India's economic fundamentals and creating a foundation to support the next leg of growth.

#### Government reforms continue irrespective of political party



Source: Ministry of Statistics, Government of India. \* FDI = Foreign Direct Investment; Vishesh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)

#### 3. Consumption – from cars to travel

India is already one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world. In fact, over the past seven decades domestic consumption has doubled.<sup>3</sup>



\*As at February 2018 <sup>†</sup>Based on units sold in the fiscal year ended March 2018 <sup>3</sup>Source: Industry research, 'The New Indian' – BCG report, March 2017

## Signs of India's growth: from governance to innovation

As growth has accelerated, India has seen improvements across the economy from governance to innovation and competitiveness. (Chart below). In fact, the country's ranking in The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Survey jumped to 63 in 2019 – the biggest increase among 190 countries and an indication of the success of government reforms.



#### Major jump in "Ease of Doing Business" ranking



<sup>4</sup>World Economic Forum <sup>5</sup>Cornell, INSEAD, WIPO

#### Indian equity markets reflect the economy's strength

Stock markets can reflect a country's strength, as good companies emerge and individuals increasingly invest in them. Currently the world's fifth largest economy, it's no surprise that the Indian equity market has steadily increased in size by 17x from 2001 – 2018.



#### Indian Equity Market Capitalization\* (USD bn)

#### Indian equities can help enhance diversification

Combining assets with low correlation to each other can help reduce the overall risk of a portfolio. For example, Indian equities have a low correlation to both Canadian and U.S. equities, which means adding Indian equities to a portfolio can help enhance diversification.

India Equities	1.00
Canadian Equities	0.17
U.S. Equities	0.37

Source: Bloomberg data, in CAD terms. Table based on 5-year weekly correlation from September 30, 2014 to December 31, 2019. Correlation is a measure of how securities move in relationship to eachother. Correlation has a value that falls between -1.0 and +1.0. A low or negative correlation means that the securities do not move in lockstep, helping to enhance diversification.

### Adding Indian equities to a portfolio of Canadian equities can enhance risk-adjusted returns

One way to assess an investment is to analyze how much it returned compared to a benchmark index or how it can help with diversification. As the chart below shows, over the long-term when Indian investments were added to a Canadian equity portfolio, it increased the return potential of the portfolio over the period.

#### Return potential generated by adding Indian equities to a hypothetical Canadian equity portfolio (Based on % weightings over 10 years)



Source: Morningstar Research Inc.; based on the 10-year periods from December 2009 to December 31 2019. All returns in C\$. Canadian equity portfolio represented by the S&P/TSX Composite Index; Indian equities by the MSCI India Index. For illustrative purposes only. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Actual results would have been different. You cannot invest directly in an index. A Sharpe ratio combines a risk measurement and a return measurement into a single number to determine a fund's risk-adjusted return. A higher value is better.

### Delivering results in India takes local expertise

While India represents an exciting long-term opportunity, it is critical to work with the right investment partner, one who understands the implications of an evolving world economy, and also understands the fine nuances of the local market and is able to unearth the right investment opportunities.

That's why Sun Life Global Investments has partnered with Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited:



The Birla team has extensive experience managing assets on the ground in India with an international presence in Dubai, Singapore and Mauritius.

<sup>6</sup>Based on assets as at December 31, 2019. <sup>7</sup>Source: Association of Mutual Funds of India, September 30, 2018.

#### Access the India opportunity

Sun Life Global Investments offers a range of investment options that provide access to the India opportunity, each with a different focus and varying levels of risk.



<sup>8</sup>Series A. Launched on April 14, 1998 by Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC.

#### Illuminating a brighter world of investments

Sun Life Global Investments offers Canadians a diverse lineup of mutual funds and innovative portfolio solutions, empowering them to pursue their financial goals at every life stage. We bring together the strength of one of Canada's most trusted names in financial services with some of the best asset managers from around the world to deliver a truly global investment platform.



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