

The current state of India's development story in ten charts



Deepanshu Mohan and Richa Sekhani offer a comprehensive picture of India's development story in ten illustrative charts, highlighting areas that need greater attention from politicians as elections loom

With the 2019 Lok Sabha election less than a year away, the current Indian story of development deserves to be a top priority for all contesting political parties. During the absolute majority electoral win in 2014, the Narendra Modi led NDA government **promised** development for all (*Acchhe Din*) as part of its top governance priority. Over the last few months, **rivers of ink** have been spilled debating the extent to which such claimed promises of development are actually realized or not. Our analysis here, from a national perspective, seeks to offer a comprehensive picture on India's development narrative, highlighting the key governance areas meriting greater attention from political groups across states.

Employment

Keeping aside some of the **debates** surrounding the methodology, validity or discreteness of employment data in and across India, the aggregate employment growth numbers paint a mixed picture (as seen in Figure 1). If we take **employment elasticity** as a measure here to understand the current employment scenario across different occupational areas, we see current employment intensity levels to be at its lowest (across sectors) when compared with the corresponding rate of economic growth. Employment elasticity, simply, measures the percentage change in employment across a given occupational sector from a 1 per cent point increase (or decrease) in economic growth. Overall, improved trends in employment elasticity for an economy, reflect a better growth in employment opportunities (within a sector) for its population as a percent of its growth (development) process.

Figure 1 demonstrates an improved overall employment growth situation (in terms of creating formal, regular-wage job opportunities) since the year 2000. However, an increase in overall employment growth (as debated as it may be) does not necessarily improve employment intensity within sectors (seen in Figure 2).

Figure 2 reflects the weak extent of employment intensity growth across sectors (except in Construction and Utilities), observable over the last two decades. Sector-wise levels of employment elasticity are seen to be in the

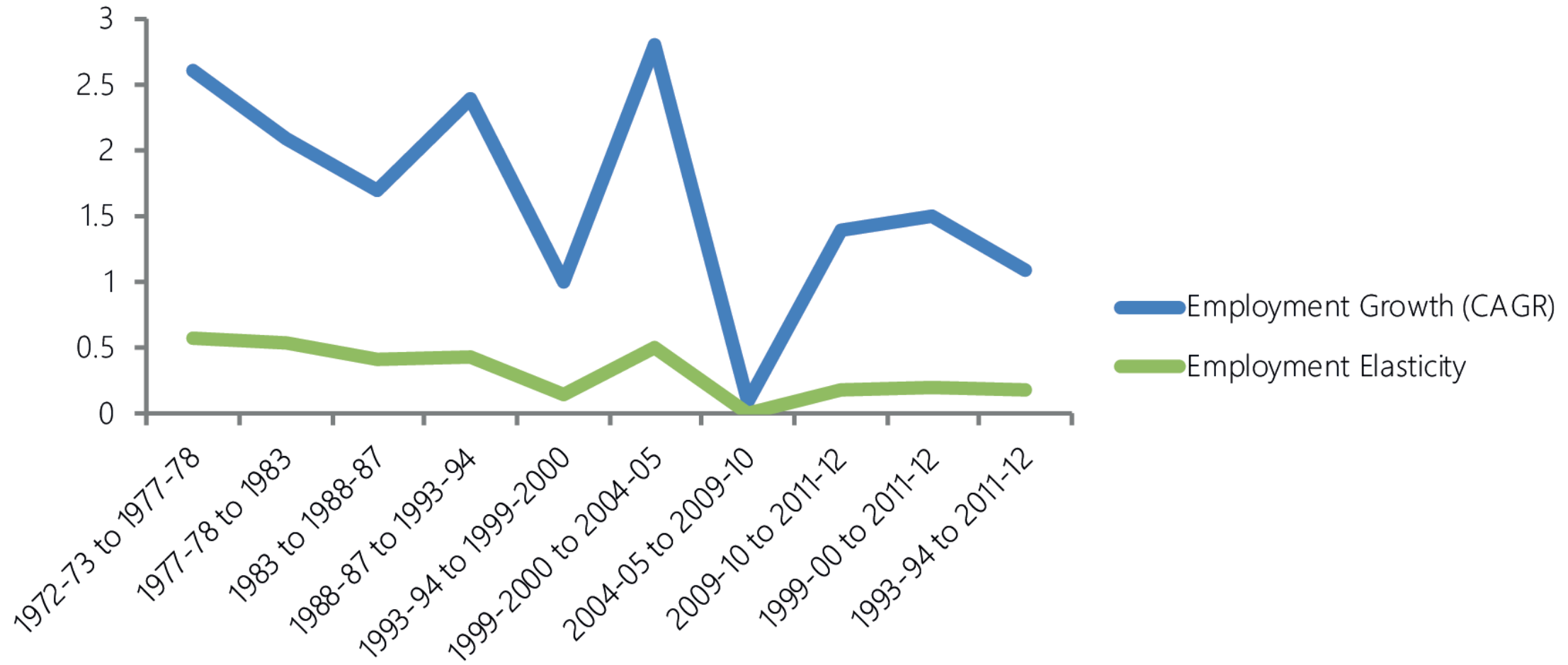
negative zone for the agriculture sector, indicating a transition in employability of people (with high levels of urbanization) who continue to move out from farming related activities to other areas of work for higher wages. Since the year 2000, employment elasticity is the highest for utilities, followed by construction sector (explained by high private and public investments in infrastructure).

The manufacturing sector, however, witnessed negative employment elasticity in the second half of 2000s, during the period of 2009-10 to 2013-14, employment elasticity within manufacturing continues to be dismally low (around 0.3-0.4 %), reflecting how the conditions of higher growth in other areas have hardly affected the employment intensity within India's manufacturing capacities.

... it remains vital for all contesting political groups to attach greater importance to the concerns highlighted here

Figure 1. Employment elasticity vs. Employment growth (1999-2012)

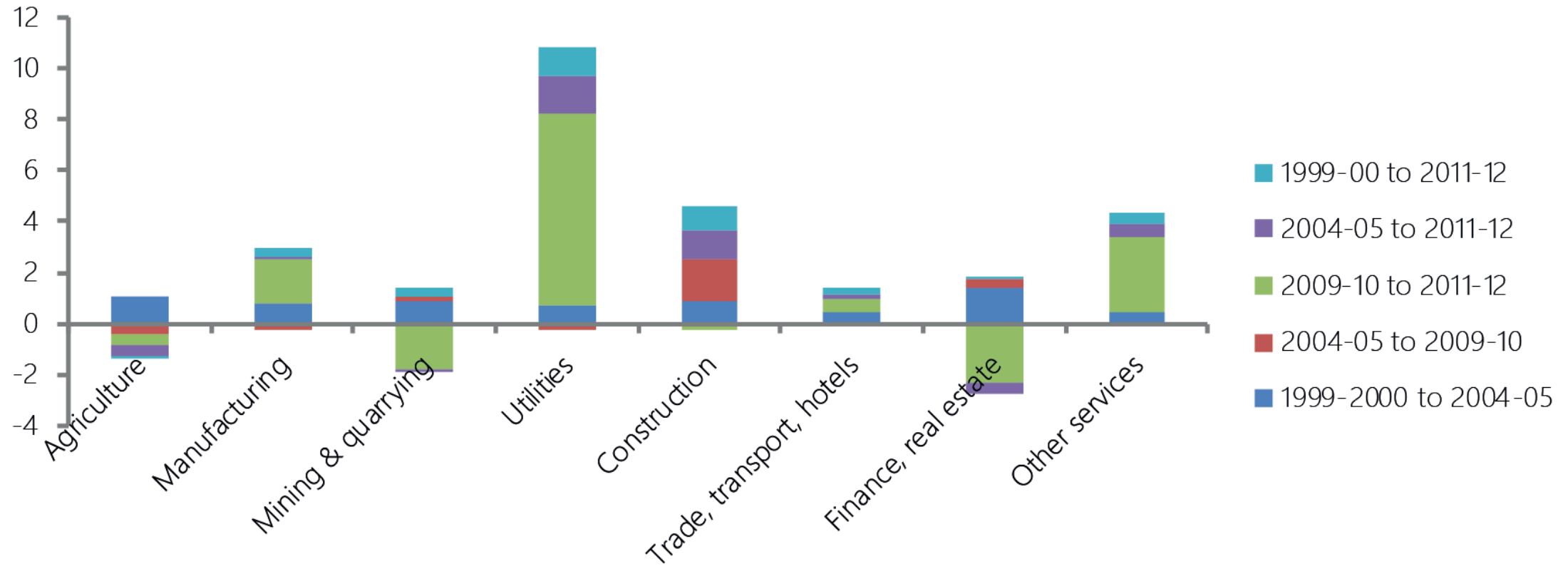
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Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

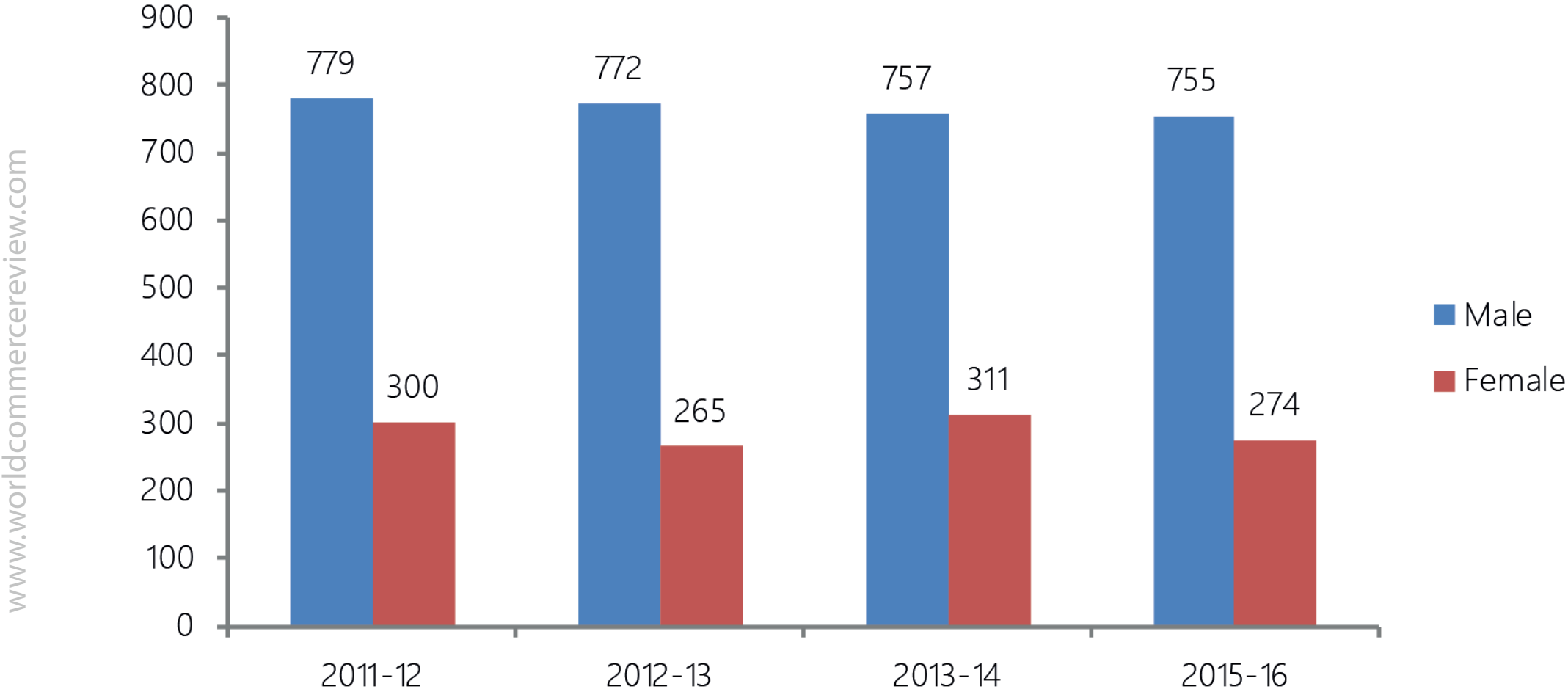
Figure 2. Employment elasticity levels across sectors (1999-2012)

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Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

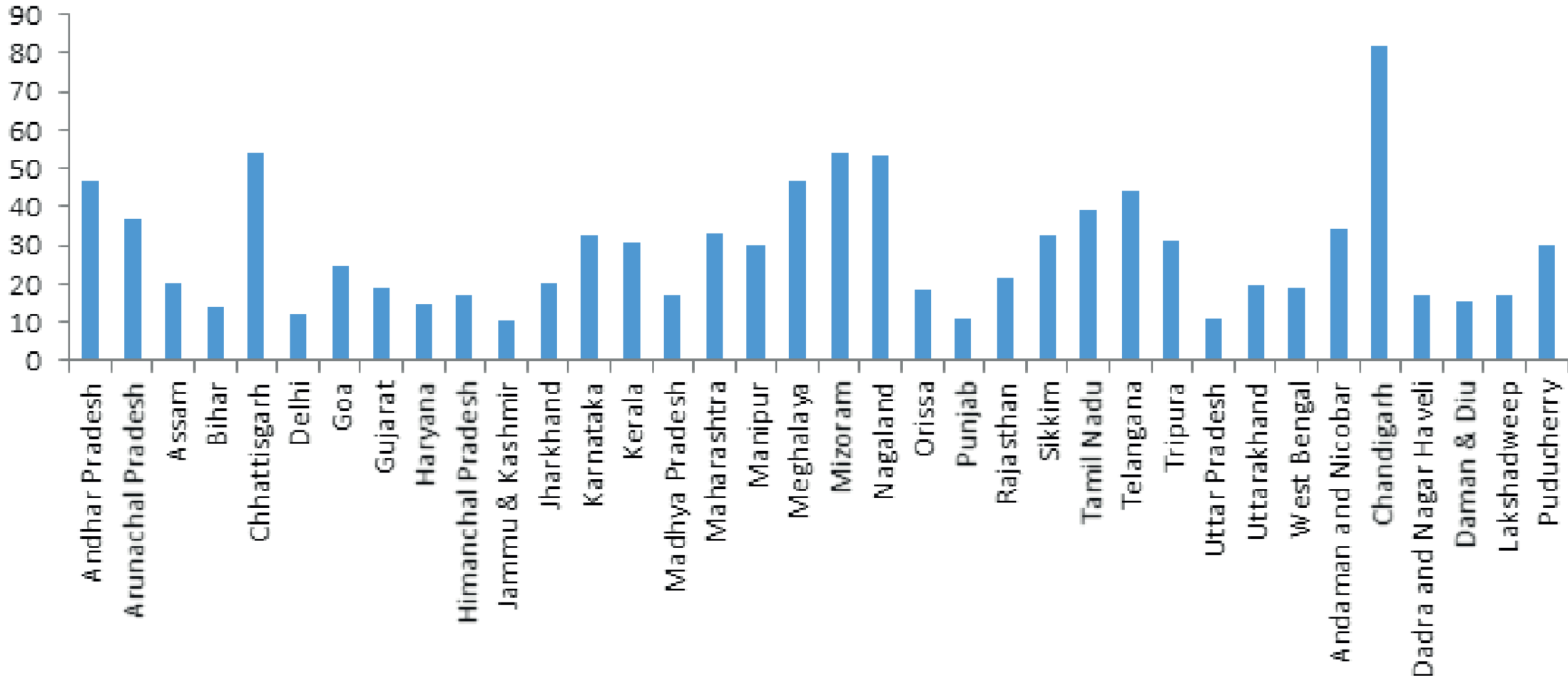
Figure 3. Labour force participation per 1000 persons aged 15 years above (working age population group)



Source: Labour Bureau Reports

Figure 4. State-wide female labour force participation rate (2015-16)

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Source: 5th Employment and Unemployment survey (EUS)

Gendered distribution of labour

The [rise](#) in sector-wise levels of gender inequality within India's rapidly expanding female-male labour market continues to be a deeply troubling phenomena. If we simply observe the labour force participation levels (gender-wise) over the last few years, the disparity seen in the number of women participating in regular-wage (formal) jobs as against men, remains overwhelmingly high.

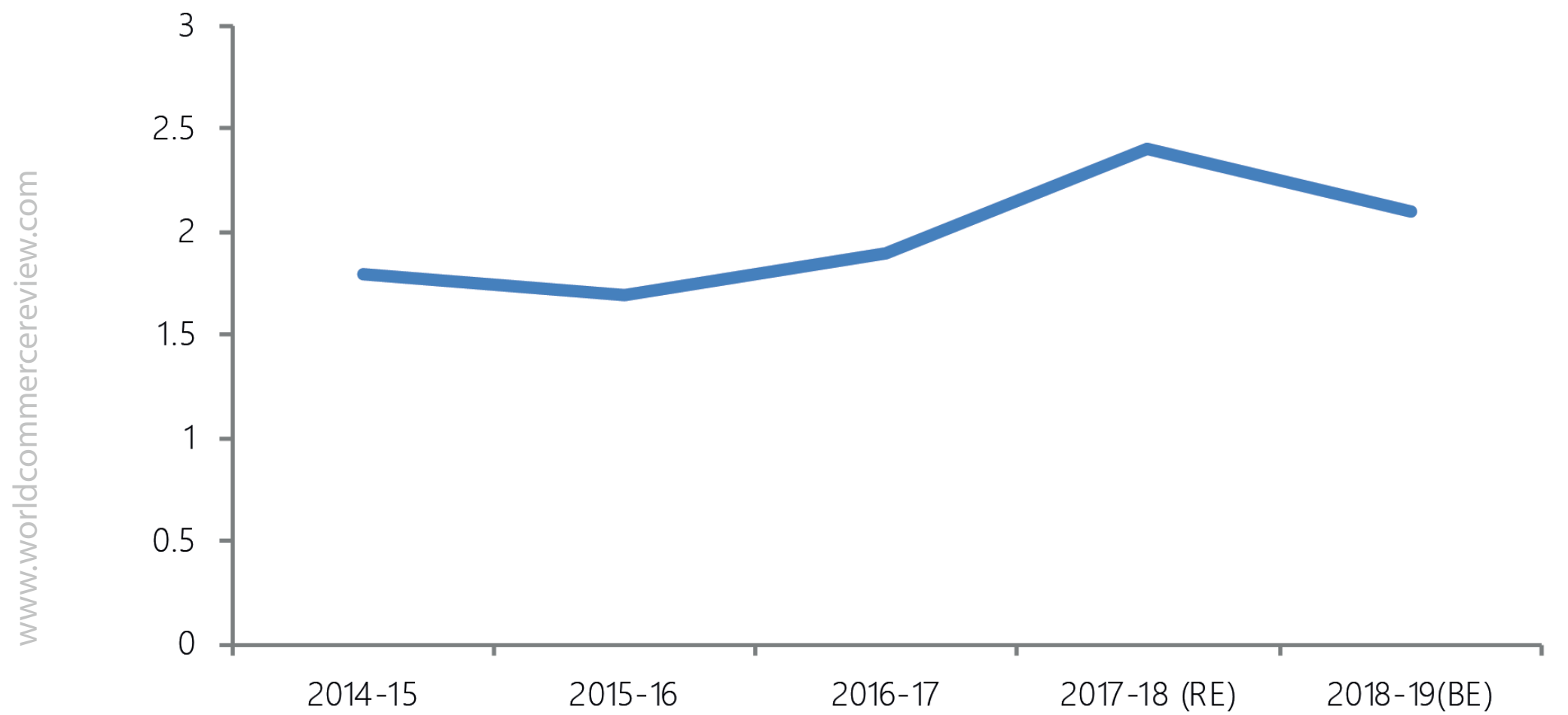
In the World Economic Forum [Global Gender Report 2015](#), India was ranked 139 among 145 countries on the Economic Participation and Opportunity sub-index while in rankings by indicator, its rank on Female Labour Force Participation Rate is 136 among 145 countries. On a state-wise trend for this indicator (seen in Figure 4 below), one observes a huge gendered variation in performance between states of the North-East and the South with the North Indian states (with exceptions of Chhattisgarh and Union territory of Chandigarh). Some possible reasons explaining these geo-spatial trends have been discussed [here](#).

Access to social opportunities (education & health)

Public funding and support in areas of education and healthcare has drastically reduced in the last few years. In healthcare financing, for example, the total share of Union Government in the overall budget allocation continues to be dismally low in the range of 1.5-2% (seen in Figure 5.1). A dismally low level of public funding not only increases the overall [out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure](#) for those with limited capacity to afford medical treatment, but also affects the overall capacity to meet healthcare needs of the population. One way to monitor some of the supply side constraints (on access to public healthcare) is by studying the trend in total number of professional doctors across publicly funded medical establishments (seen in Figure 5.2).

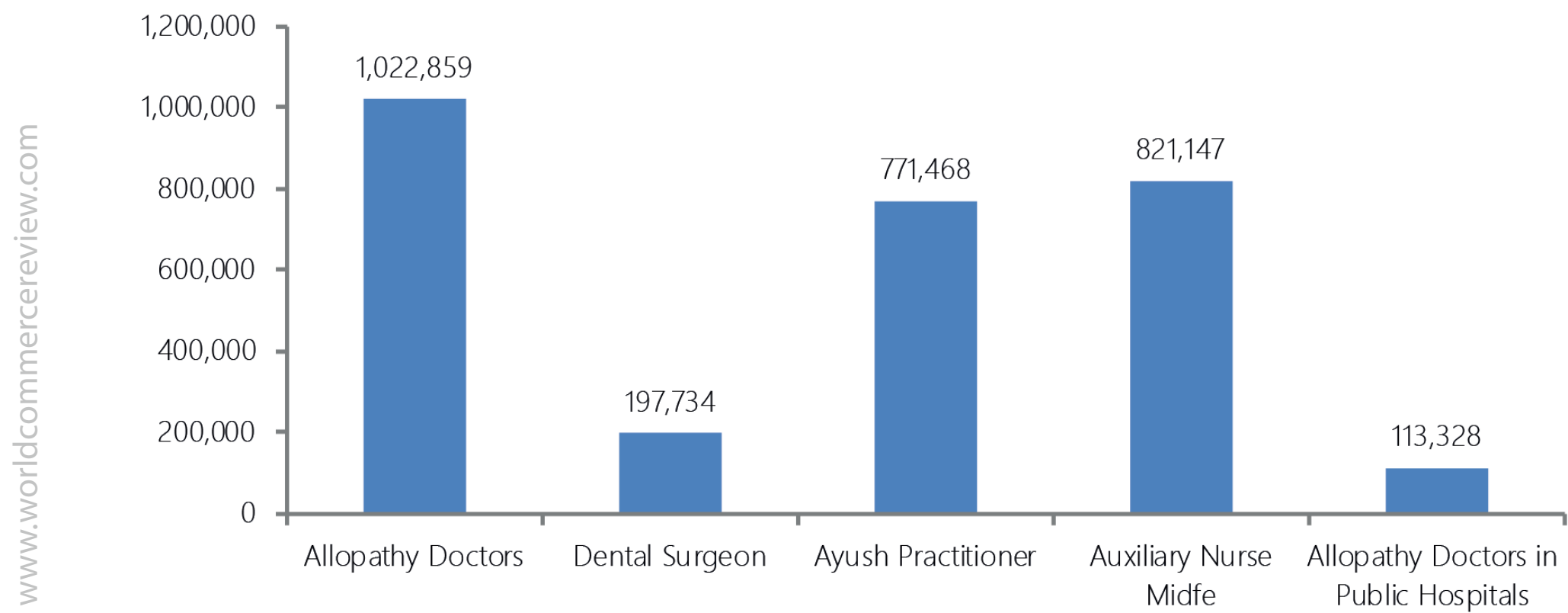
Figure 5.2 extracted from the data provided by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), depicts the total number of doctors available (as per different areas of medical expertise) across the country. At this point, on an

Figure 5.1. Share of Union Government budget in healthcare budget allocation (%)



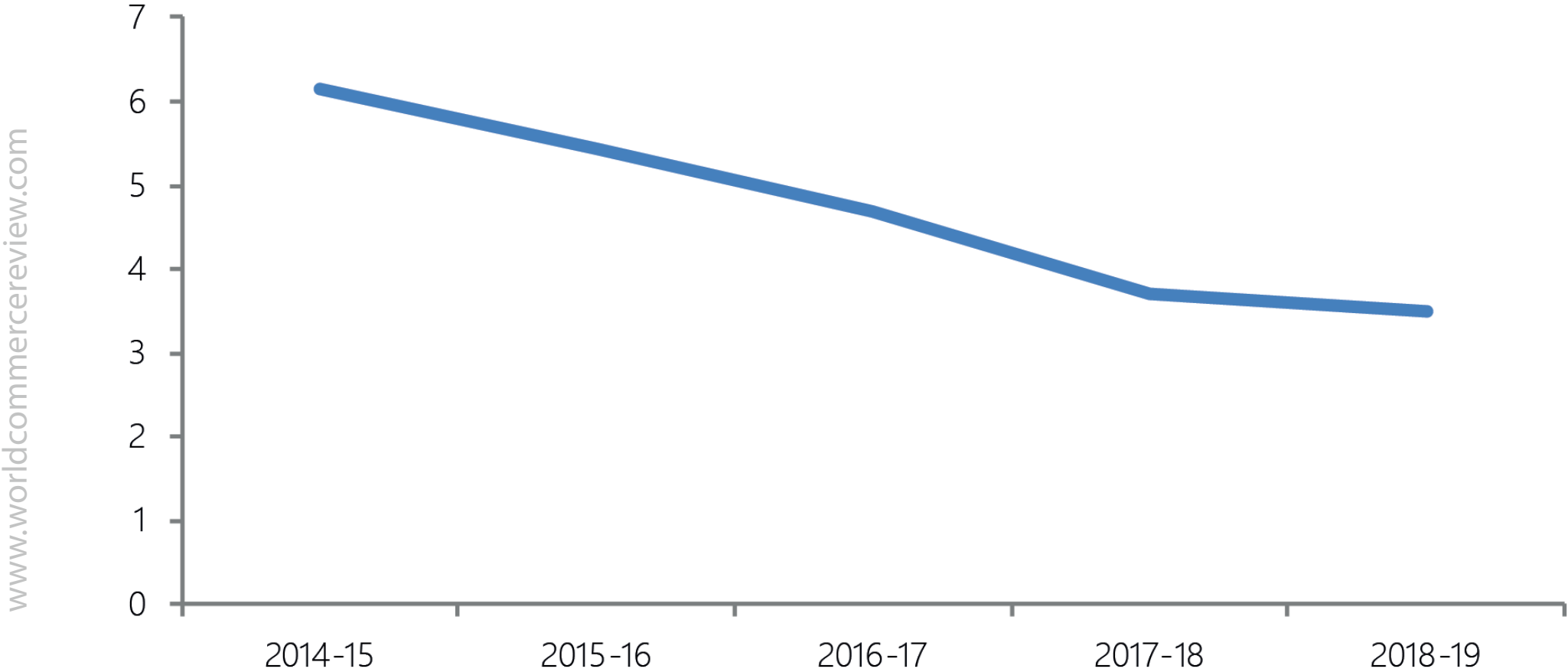
Source: Union Budget 2014-2018

Figure 5.2. Number of doctors as per medical practice fields 2016



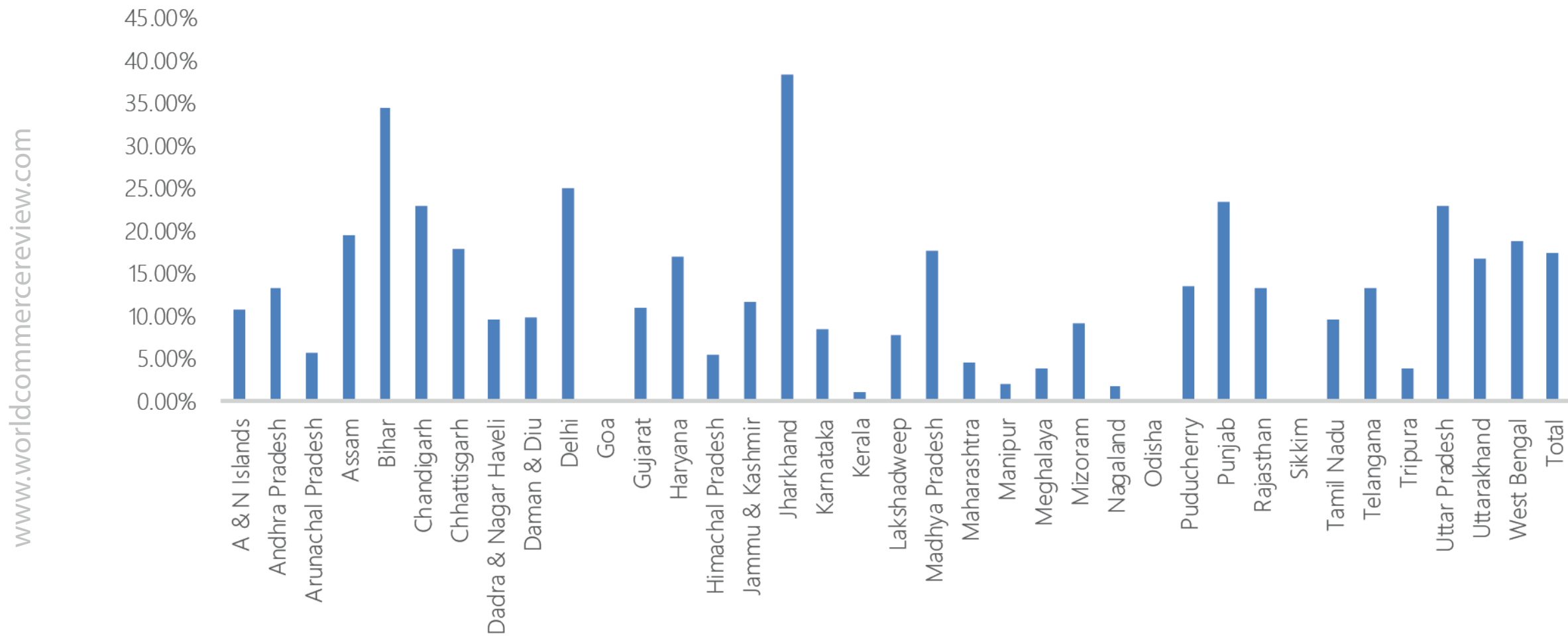
Source: Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)

Figure 6. Share of Union Government budget in higher education allocation (%)



Source: Union Budget 2014-2018

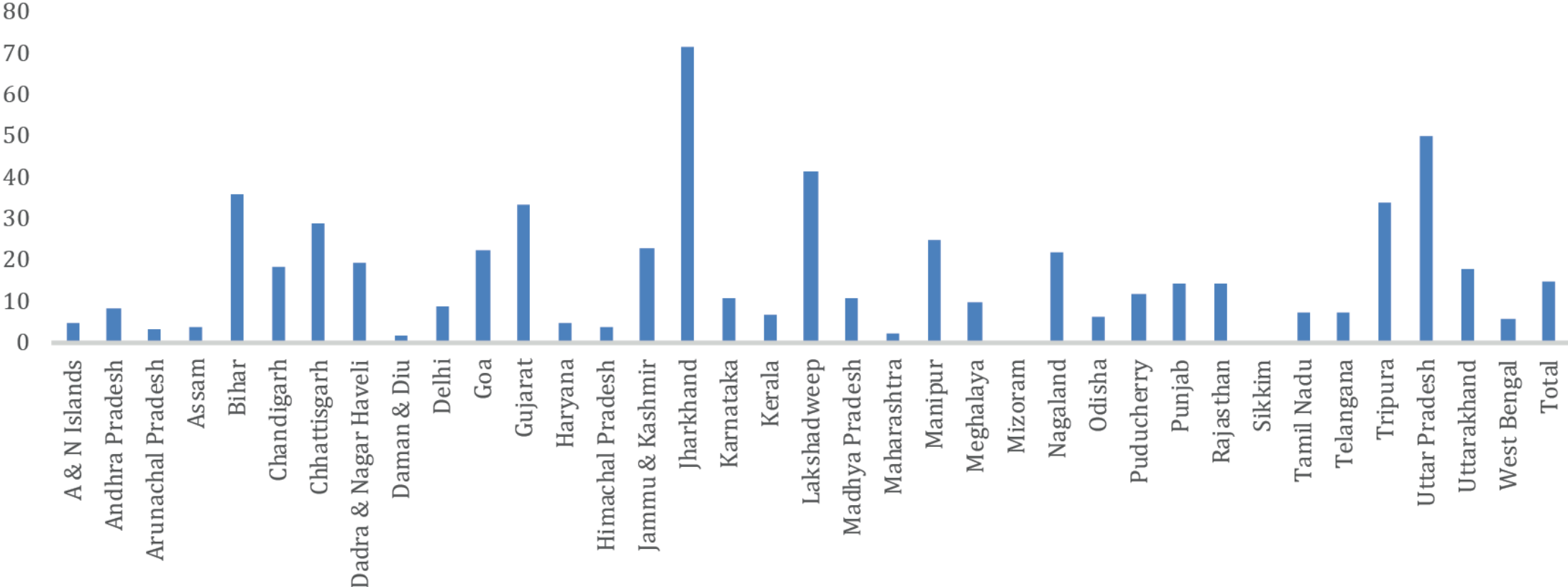
Figure 7.1. State-wide per cent (%) of total teacher vacancies in elementary schools 2016



Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development

Figure 7.2. State-wide per cent (%) of total teacher vacancies in secondary schools 2016

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Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development

Table 1. Vacancies across all the central universities

Position	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
Sanctioned Strength	2,417	4,793	9,837	17,047
Vacancy	1,262	2,171	2,078	5,511

Table 2. University-wide teaching vacancies

Universities	State	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Percentage of Vacancies
Allahabad Universities	Uttar Pradesh	852	549	64.4
Delhi universities	Delhi	1,706	805	47.7
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	Chhattisgarh	435	215	49.4
Jawaharlal Nehru University	Delhi	900	308	34.2
Hyderabad University	Telangana	572	145	25.4
Aligarh Muslim University	Uttar Pradesh	1,626	343	21.1
Banaras Hindu university	Uttar Pradesh	1,930	390	20.2

Source: RTI (Information sought by print)

aggregate level, India has 1 million doctors of modern medicine (ie. allopathy) to treat a population of 1.3 billion population. Out of these, only 1.1 lakh work within the public health sector, which caters to more than 900 million of the population (from rural areas) that remains entirely dependent on publicly funded medical establishments. A previous [analysis](#) discusses the extent of India's national level public health crisis.

In the area of education, public funding and support, across primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education continues to decline. Figure 6 below reflects a substantial cut in budget allocation for higher education (by the Union Government), with the expectation for states to increase their own share of education spending, at the same time, substituting higher education capacity needs by pushing for increased private-sector spending across different educational levels. However, in terms of accessibility, affordability and learning outcomes (of students within public-funded educational facilities), the [evidence](#) remains highly uneven across states.

The [systemic crisis](#) in India's public education sector remains further exacerbated by the rising extent of teaching vacancies, evident within elementary and higher secondary schools across states. Figure 7.1 and 7.2 below reflect the state-wise number of teacher vacancies within elementary schools (Figure 7.1) and government secondary schools (Figure 7.2) including data from both, rural and urban areas.

At elementary level of schooling, 17.51% posts for government teachers were vacant, while for secondary level schools, 14.78% posts were vacant. Jharkhand and Bihar feature the highest number of (government) teacher vacancies (at elementary school-levels). In case of secondary schooling, India remains short by more than 1 million teachers than the sanctioned number. The situation in case of ensuring a minimum number of *special educators* (seen as teachers to children with special needs or physical, mental disabilities) remains particularly poor across states.

There are about 65% posts vacant for such special educators, where, states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya feature not even a single *special educator*. Similarly, in case of higher university level education, over a third of the total teaching positions across 40 central universities in India are lying vacant (seen in Tables 1 & 2), with Allahabad University (in UP) and Delhi University amongst the worst affected.

Access to justice

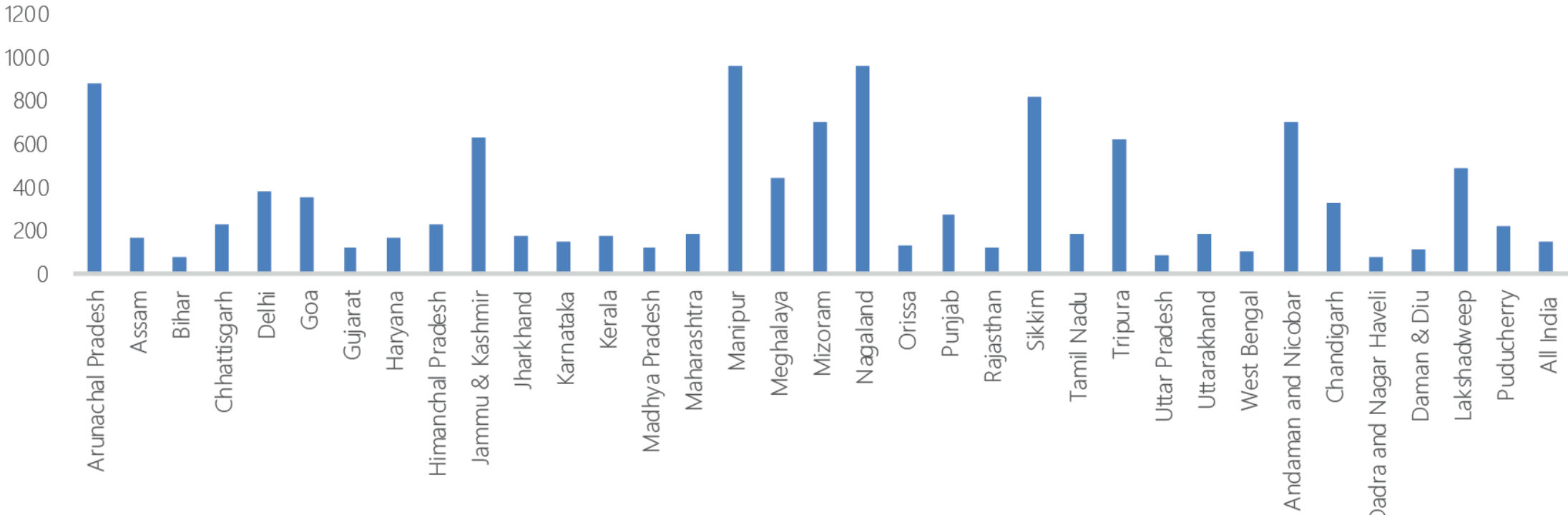
One of the basic features strengthening the social contract between any government and citizens remains rooted in government's capacity to ensure an environment of safety and protection for all citizens. In terms of access to basic law and order establishment (ie. the police force), Figure 8 below shows the state-wise distribution of police force available to ensure citizen safety and/or enforce law and order to minimize instances of crime.

While instances of rising crime (including [crime against women](#)) continue to be reported, what remains often understated is the limited availability of police force within/across states to address citizen needs. As per the data released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in 2017-18, there are 15,579 police stations in the country. The police-to-population ratio (according to BPR&D) must be around 222 police personnel for one lakh citizens, whereas, in India this ratio is 151.

Further, poor state-level funding for developing policing infrastructure add to the concerns of low police(wo)men available. Many police stations lack basic utilities of vehicles, phones and wireless communication. As per BPR&D [statistics](#), there are around 273 police stations without a single police vehicle for transport; around 267 without telephone lines and 129 without wireless sets; while, 51 of overall police stations neither have a telephone line nor wireless sets available.

Figure 8. State-wide distribution of police (per lakh population) 2017

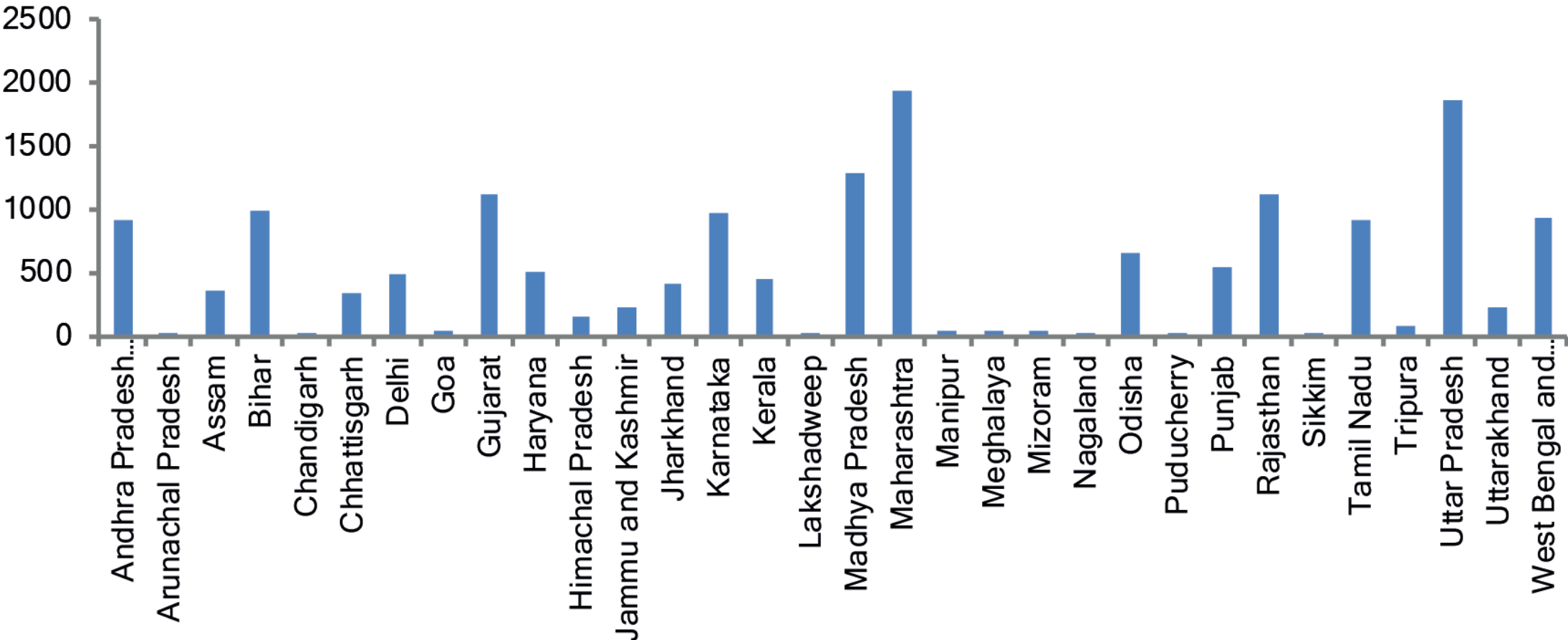
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Source: Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)

Figure 9. Working strength in Indian states as of March 2018

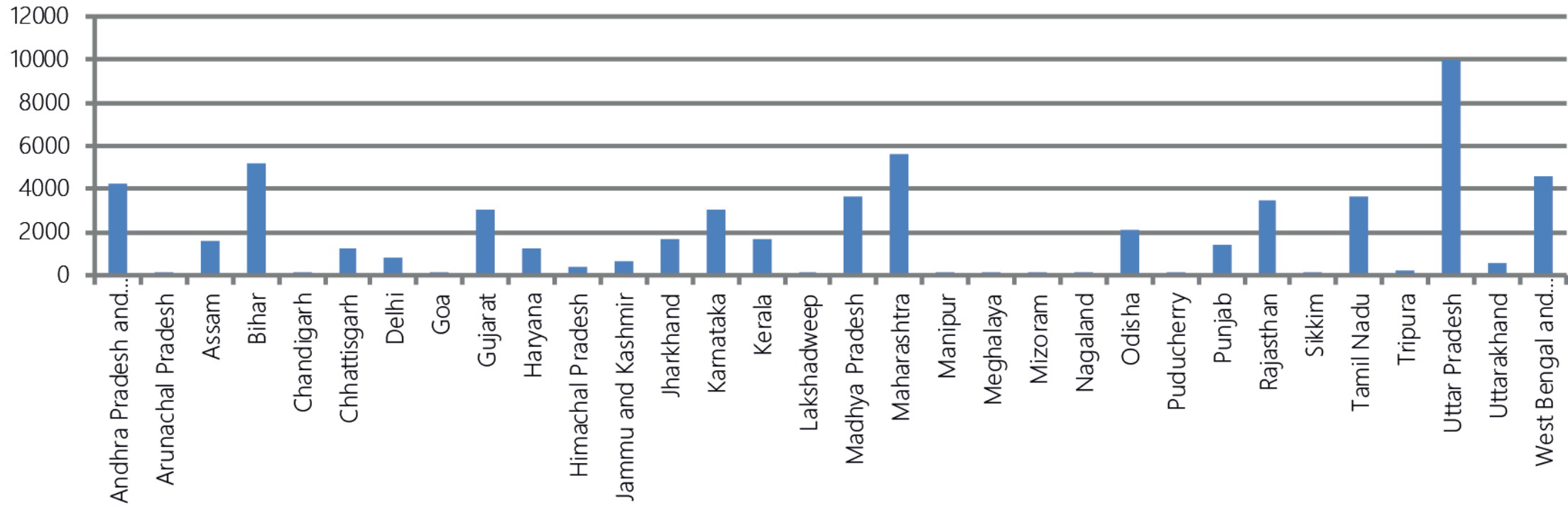
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Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4241

Figure 10. Judges required as per Chief Justice of India/Law Commission

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Source: Vidhi Research

In the case of resolving legal disputes, the need for a higher number of judges to resolve pending judicial cases (across different levels) continues to rise further. According to [TS Thakur](#) (an earlier Chief Justice of India), at a national level, courts require more than 70,000 judges to clear pending cases. In terms of judges-per ten lacs population ratio, there [are](#) 18 judges per 10 lakh people as compared to a ratio of 50 to 10 lakh people, as recommended by the Law Commission in an earlier report.

Going into election mode, it remains vital for all contesting political groups to attach greater importance to the concerns highlighted here and more importantly debate to discuss measures that can help mitigate the developmental challenges (across states) in realizing better conditions of economic and social well-being for all. ■

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