Title: From Jugaad to systematic innovation: the challenge for India

Authors: Krishnan, Rishikesha T

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Abstract: Why is India unable to be the source of major industrial innovations on a sustained basis even though it has highly skilled talent and a penchant for jugaad (creative improvisation)? This book draws on social, cultural, political, economic and managerial arguments to explain this paradox. Replete with a strong conceptual framework, case studies, examples, and data relating to India’s innovation performance, this book is essential reading for anyone concerned with the future of Indian industry. The book consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the topic and explains why innovation is important for India. Chapter 2 draws on theory and country experiences to identify the factors influencing innovation output. Chapter 3 provides a snapshot of India’s current position on key innovation indicators. Chapter 4 seeks explanations for why India has been unable to achieve its innovation potential. The final chapter proposes a road map to put India on a higher industrial innovation trajectory.

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Besides India’s geographical diversity, India is also home to a vast diversity of languages. A total of 2% of the Indian population speaks English; the majority of the population use one of India’s 22 main languages. India needs these technologies to solve these kinds of challenges at the fringe. What would be some of the advantages? Here is one to start with: if a fringe case is solved via technology or design, it has the potential to be applied anywhere else in the world. The fringe takes care of edge cases, of deviations, of order within the chaos, and acts as a test bed for regression testing of a scenario. Innovations and solutions can start as a ‘jugaad’ - a local, frugal innovation - but it needs a keen eye to scale them to global proportions. Today, India stands at the precipice of change. From jugaad to systematic innovation: The challenge for India. Bangalore: Utpreraka Foundation. Google Scholar. Kumar, N., & Puranam, P. 2012. India inside: The emerging innovation challenge to the West. Boston: Harvard Business Press. Google Scholar. Innovation in India: The challenge of combining economic growth with inclusive development. In S. V. Ramani (Ed.). Innovation in India: Combining economic growth with inclusive development: 1–38. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ries, E. 2011. The lean startup: How today’s entrepreneurs use continuous innovation to create radically successful businesses. New York: Random House. Google Scholar. Sachs, J. 2005. The end of poverty: Economic possibilities for our time. New York: Penguin Press. Jugaad of Indian innovation. Patting ourselves for our ability to arrive at makeshift solutions will not take us far. NEXT BLOG. By Latha Jishnu. Last Updated: Thursday 11 June 2015. Nothing perhaps sums up India so well as jugaad. A Hindi word that means a makeshift solution or a creative improvisation, jugaad is the science, art and philosophy of what makes India tick. Need a critical part for your fancy imported washing machine? The resourceful electrician will do a jugaad with a local thingummy and make it work. Have a problem with your vintage car’s radiator? The grease-laden mechanic w