

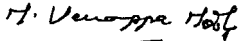
social networks, to help them stand on their own feet. In a sense this strategy seeks to leverage the social capital available in Indian society, particularly among these underprivileged groups, to lift them out of poverty.

In the corporate sector the concept of a shared destiny is increasingly used with the objective of bringing together all stakeholders and to move beyond the traditional management philosophy of strategy-structure-systems to purpose-process-people. In fact, the concept of a 'a shared destiny' must be infused in the society as a whole to generate a wave of social capital which can transform India not only into an economic powerhouse but also into an integrated, peaceful, caring and giving society.

The diverse strands that form the social capital of India underpin the material wealth and progress of the nation and contribute to the economic and social well being of its people in a broader, more real, sense. There is also some evidence in academic research which indicates that— within India, a State's endowment of social capital does affect the ability of that State to reduce poverty and successfully implement development programmes.

In this Report on Social Capital, the Commission has explored the evolution and growth of institutions that lie at the base of social capital in India; with particular reference to Societies, Trusts/ Charitable Institutions, Waqfs and Endowments, Voluntary Organisations at the grass roots levels such as Self-Help Groups, Self-Regulatory Authorities and Co-operatives. The Commission has examined these institutions in the context of their present legal underpinnings, their institutional designs, their interface with government and with other stakeholders; their respective roles and functions, their strengths and weaknesses and the reform agenda that should be charted out for these institutions. The recommendations made by the Commission spell out the changes required in the legal framework, as well as in the administrative structure and government policies to bring about independence, integrity, transparency, credibility and dynamism to these institutions.

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(M. Veerappa Moily)  
Chairman