IJETIR
ISSN (Online) 2583-0554
International Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (IJETIR)
Impact Factor: 5.731
Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2021

Adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS): Problems and Prospects

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Abstract: *India's transition from Indian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Indian GAAP) toward the IFRS-converged Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) represents one of the most significant reforms in the country's financial-reporting architecture. Announced by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) through the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and implemented in a phased manner from the financial year 2016-17, Ind AS was designed to bring Indian corporate reporting closer to global comparability while retaining certain "carve-outs" suited to domestic conditions. This paper undertakes a descriptive, document-based examination of the adoption of Ind AS in India up to the year 2019. It traces the regulatory roadmap issued by the MCA, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI); analyses the phase-wise applicability criteria for corporates and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs); and synthesises empirical and conceptual literature — both international and Indian — on the benefits, costs and implementation problems associated with IFRS-oriented convergence. The study finds that while listed companies and large unlisted entities largely complied with the mandated timelines, banks and insurers experienced repeated deferment, and companies across sectors reported challenges relating to fair-value measurement, financial-instrument accounting, professional preparedness, IT-system readiness and the cost of transition. The paper concludes with recommendations for capacity building, phased convergence for financial-sector entities, and stronger coordination among regulators.*

Keywords: *Ind AS, IFRS Convergence, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Financial Reporting, Corporate Governance, India.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Financial reporting standards constitute the language through which corporate performance is communicated to shareholders, regulators, lenders and the wider capital market. As economies integrate with global trade and capital flows, the demand for a common financial-reporting language has intensified. The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), have emerged as the dominant reference framework, and a majority of jurisdictions now require or permit their use, either directly or through a process of national convergence.

India adopted a convergence approach rather than a direct adoption of IFRS. The outcome of this convergence process is a set of standards designated "Indian Accounting Standards" (Ind AS), which are substantially aligned with IFRS but retain a limited number of deviations — commonly referred to as "carve-outs" — reflecting India's legal, tax and economic environment. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), acting under the Companies Act, 2013, notified the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 on 16 February 2015, thereby formalising a phase-wise roadmap for mandatory adoption beginning with accounting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2016.

1.1. The Conceptual Framework

The conceptual foundation of this study rests on three interlinked strands. First, the institutional theory of accounting harmonisation, which suggests that the success of any standard-setting reform depends not merely on the technical

content of the standards but on the surrounding institutional infrastructure — regulatory enforcement, auditor competence, and corporate governance quality. Second, the economic-consequences perspective in accounting research, which holds that a change in reporting standards can alter reported earnings, asset values, cost of capital and investor behaviour, independent of any change in the underlying economic activity of the firm. Third, the convergence-versus-adoption debate, which distinguishes India's phased, carve-out-based approach from the "big bang" full adoption of IFRS undertaken by jurisdictions such as those in the European Union.
Within this framework, Ind AS is treated not as a purely technical accounting exercise but as a regulatory reform embedded in India's broader corporate-governance and capital-market development agenda, connecting the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) as the standard-recommending body, and sectoral regulators such as SEBI, RBI and IRDAI.

1.2. The Statement of the Problem

Despite a clearly notified roadmap, the transition to Ind AS in India has not been uniform across sectors. Corporates governed by the MCA roadmap moved to Ind AS in two mandatory phases (2016-17 and 2017-18), while non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) followed a separate, later roadmap (2018-19 and 2019-20), and scheduled commercial banks — after an initial timeline of 2018-19 — saw their implementation deferred indefinitely by the RBI in March 2019. Insurers under IRDAI experienced a similar deferment. This asymmetry, combined with recurring difficulties reported by preparers in areas such as financial-instrument classification, fair-value measurement, business combinations, and revenue recognition, constitutes the core problem this study investigates: the extent, pattern and difficulties of Ind AS adoption across the Indian corporate landscape up to 2019.

1.3. The Significance of the Study

The study is significant for four groups of stakeholders. For regulators (MCA, SEBI, RBI, IRDAI), it consolidates the fragmented timeline of notifications and amendments into a single reference framework and highlights coordination gaps. For preparers and auditors, it synthesises documented implementation problems that can inform training and system-readiness planning. For academic researchers, it offers a structured literature synthesis connecting international IFRS-adoption research with the India-specific Ind AS literature. For policymakers, it offers evidence-based recommendations for sequencing the remaining phases of convergence, particularly for the financial sector.

1.4. Research Questions

RQ1. What is the extent of adoption and compliance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) among Indian companies?
RQ2. What are the major problems and challenges faced by companies in the adoption and implementation of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)?
RQ3. What is the role of regulatory authorities and corporate governance mechanisms in facilitating the effective implementation of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)?

1.5. Research Objectives

O1. To analyze the extent of adoption and compliance with Indian Accounting Standards among Indian companies.
O2. To identify the major problems and challenges faced by companies in the adoption and implementation of Indian Accounting Standards.
O3. To examine the role of regulatory authorities and corporate governance mechanisms in facilitating the effective implementation of Indian Accounting Standards.

1.6. The Delimitations of the Study

The study is delimited in the following ways: (a) the temporal scope is restricted to developments up to and including calendar year 2019, and does not cover amendments, standards, or empirical findings published thereafter; (b) the study is descriptive and document-based, relying on secondary data drawn from regulatory notifications, professional-body reports and peer-reviewed literature, rather than primary survey data collected by the researcher; (c) the sectoral focus is on corporates and NBFCs governed by the MCA and RBI roadmaps, with banking and insurance sector discussed only to the extent of their deferment; and (d) the study does not attempt a standard-by-standard technical audit of all forty-one notified Ind AS, but rather addresses adoption at the level of policy, compliance pattern and reported implementation problems.

II. THE REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. International Literature

Kalra & Vardia (2016) *is a* comparative study is discussed here for its methodological parallel with international event-study designs. Using the financial statements of a sample of Indian listed companies before and after the transition to IFRS-aligned reporting, the authors compared key ratios and reported values under the old and new frameworks and found that fair-value-oriented recognition materially altered reported profitability and asset values, echoing the broader international finding that a change in accounting framework alone can produce significant "paper" changes in performance metrics even without a change in underlying cash flows.

De George, Li, & Shivakumar (2016) synthesised more than a decade of empirical IFRS-adoption research across dozens of jurisdictions. The authors concluded that the economic consequences of IFRS adoption — improvements in comparability, liquidity and cost of capital — are heavily conditional on a country's institutional environment, in particular the strength of legal enforcement and the incentives of preparers, rather than being an automatic consequence of the technical standards themselves. This finding is directly relevant to a convergence economy such as India, where enforcement capacity and preparer incentives vary considerably across the corporate sector.

Ball (2016) review in Accounting and Business Research offered a more cautious assessment than earlier optimistic accounts, arguing that uniformity of written standards does not guarantee uniformity of practice, because enforcement, auditing quality and local incentives continue to shape how the same standard is applied differently across countries. This perspective underpins the present study's attention to India's carve-outs and phased, rather than "big bang," convergence strategy.

Amoako & Asante (2020) examined earnings-management behaviour before and after IFRS adoption and found that discretionary-accrual-based earnings management was significantly lower in the post-adoption period, supporting the conclusion that IFRS adoption, even in an emerging-market institutional setting, is associated with improved financial-reporting quality, though the authors cautioned that the finding was sector-specific and should not be generalised without further evidence from other industries.

2.2. National (India-specific) Literature

Kalra & Vardia (2016) reporting on the financial statements of Indian listed companies and found material differences in reported assets, liabilities and profitability between Indian GAAP and IFRS-aligned presentations, attributing the differences principally to fair-value measurement of financial instruments and revised treatment of employee benefits and revenue recognition.

Gupta & Sharma (2018) surveyed the challenges reported by Indian companies during Ind AS implementation and identified a shortage of professionals trained in fair-value and financial-instrument accounting, high one-time transition costs, complexity in restating comparative financial statements, and the need for significant changes to enterprise information systems as the most frequently cited obstacles.

Kaaya & Noorbasha (2019) this study examined the benefits, challenges and "must-do" reflections arising from the application of IFRS-converged Ind AS in India. The authors concluded that while the anticipated benefits of enhanced transparency, comparability and access to global capital were broadly acknowledged by preparers, the pace of realising these benefits depended on the speed with which regulatory coordination gaps between the MCA, SEBI, RBI and IRDAI were resolved, and recommended a unified regulatory calendar for standard-setting bodies.

2.3. The Research Gap

The reviewed literature demonstrates strong consensus internationally that the economic benefits of IFRS-style convergence are conditional on institutional enforcement rather than automatic (De George et al., 2016; Ball, 2016), and Indian studies (Kalra & Vardia, 2016; Gupta & Sharma, 2018; Kaaya & Noorbasha, 2019) document firm-level implementation difficulties in specific technical areas. However, comparatively few studies integrate the regulatory-policy timeline (MCA, SEBI, RBI, IRDAI notifications and amendments) with the firm-level implementation literature into a single, chronologically organised analysis covering the full 2015-2019 roadmap period, including the sector-specific deferments for banks and insurers. This study addresses that gap by combining a documentary analysis of policy amendments with a structured synthesis of the implementation-problems literature.

III. THE METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Research Method

The study adopts a descriptive research method. It describes and organises, rather than experimentally manipulates, the sequence of regulatory events and the pattern of reported implementation experience surrounding Ind AS adoption in India up to 2019.

Research Design

The study follows a descriptive-analytical, document-based (ex post facto) design. It relies on the systematic compilation and comparative analysis of secondary documents — statutory notifications, regulatory circulars, professional-body reports and peer-reviewed publications — rather than on primary data collected directly from respondents. The design is cross-sectional in the sense that it captures the cumulative state of adoption as of 2019, while the analysis of the notification timeline (2015-2019) is longitudinal in structure.

Research Instrument

As a descriptive, documentary study, the principal "instrument" is a structured document-analysis checklist used to extract, from each source, the following fields: issuing authority, date of notification/publication, class of entity affected, applicability threshold (net worth/listing status), and reported implementation issue (where applicable). This checklist was applied uniformly across all regulatory notifications and literature sources reviewed.

Data Collection Procedure

Data were collected entirely from secondary sources through a two-stage procedure. In the first stage, primary regulatory documents were collected directly from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Reserve Bank of India, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, comprising the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and its subsequent Amendment Rules of 2016, 2017 and 2018, the SEBI circular of 31 March 2016, and the RBI notification of 22 March 2019. In the second stage, academic and professional literature — journal articles, and reports issued by the ICAI, EY and PwC — was collected and screened for relevance to the 2015-2019 period, with priority given to sources published between 2016 and 2020 to ensure temporal proximity to the events studied. Extracted data were tabulated chronologically and thematically for the analysis presented in Section 4.

IV. THE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This section presents the documentary evidence in tabular form and interprets it against the research questions set out in Section 1.4.

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4.1. Timeline of Ind AS Policy Notifications and Amendments (2015-2019)

Date	Issuing Authority	Instrument	Key Provision
2 Jan 2015	MCA	Press release on roadmap	Announced phase-wise convergence roadmap for Ind AS, with voluntary adoption from FY 2015-16.
16 Feb 2015	MCA	Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015	Notified 39 Ind AS and mandatory applicability from FY 2016-17 based on net worth and listing status.
30 Mar 2016	MCA	Companies (Ind AS) (Amendment) Rules, 2016	Notified a separate roadmap for NBFCs and refined applicability criteria.
31 Mar 2016	SEBI	Circular under ICDR Regulations, 2009	Aligned listed-company disclosure/offer-document requirements with the MCA Ind AS roadmap.
2017	MCA	Companies (Ind AS) (Amendment) Rules, 2017	Incorporated new/amended standards (e.g., Ind AS 115 on revenue) into the notified set.
2018	MCA	Companies (Ind AS) (Amendment) Rules, 2018	Further amendments aligning Ind AS with updated IFRS pronouncements (e.g., Ind AS 115 revenue recognition effective FY 2018-19).
Apr 2018 (deferred)	RBI	Roadmap for Scheduled Commercial Banks	Initial target date of FY 2018-19 for bank adoption of Ind AS, later deferred by one year.
22 Mar 2019	RBI	Notification deferring Ind AS for banks	Deferred implementation of Ind AS by scheduled commercial banks indefinitely, pending legislative amendments.
2019	IRDAI	Circular on deferment	Deferred mandatory Ind AS implementation for insurers, similar to the RBI deferment for banks.

Table 1. Chronology of principal Ind AS-related notifications and amendments, 2015-2019. Source: compiled from Ministry of Corporate Affairs notifications; SEBI (2016); Reserve Bank of India (2019); iPleaders (2016); PwC India (2015).

Table 4.1 presents the chronological development of the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) implementation framework from 2015 to 2019. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) initiated the phased convergence with IFRS by issuing the Ind AS roadmap and notifying the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, followed by successive amendments in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to expand applicability and incorporate revised accounting standards. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) aligned disclosure requirements for listed companies with the Ind AS framework, ensuring regulatory consistency in financial reporting. However, implementation for banks and insurance companies was postponed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) due to regulatory and legislative constraints. Overall, the timeline reflects a gradual and systematic approach toward Ind AS adoption, balancing international convergence with sector-specific implementation challenges.

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4.2. Phase-wise Applicability Roadmap for Corporates (MCA)

Phase	Effective From	Applicability Criterion	Comparative Period Required
Phase I	1 Apr 2016	Listed or unlisted companies with net worth ≥ ₹500 crore	FY 2015-16 restated under Ind AS
Phase II	1 Apr 2017	All listed companies (or in process of listing) irrespective of net worth, and unlisted companies with net worth ≥ ₹250 crore but < ₹500 crore	FY 2016-17 restated under Ind AS
Consequential coverage	Automatic	Holding, subsidiary, joint-venture and associate companies of any entity covered above	Same as parent/covered entity

Table 2. MCA phase-wise roadmap for corporate applicability of Ind AS. Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015; iPleaders (2016); ClearTax (n.d.); MBG Corporate (n.d.).

Table 4.2 presents the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' (MCA) phase-wise roadmap for the mandatory adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by corporates. The implementation was carried out in two phases to facilitate a smooth transition. Phase I, effective from 1 April 2016, covered listed and unlisted companies with a net worth of ₹500 crore or more, requiring the restatement of FY 2015–16 financial statements under Ind AS. Phase II, effective from 1 April 2017, expanded the applicability to all listed companies (or those in the process of listing) regardless of net worth and unlisted companies with a net worth between ₹250 crore and ₹500 crore, with comparative financial statements for FY 2016–17. The roadmap also ensured consistency across corporate groups by automatically extending Ind AS applicability to holding, subsidiary, joint venture, and associate companies of covered entities. Overall, the phased approach minimized implementation challenges while promoting uniform, transparent, and globally comparable financial reporting practices in India.

4.3. Phase-wise Applicability Roadmap for NBFCs

Phase	Effective From	Applicability Criterion
Phase I	1 Apr 2018	NBFCs (listed or unlisted) with net worth ≥ ₹500 crore, and all listed NBFCs irrespective of net worth
Phase II	1 Apr 2019	NBFCs with net worth ≥ ₹250 crore but < ₹500 crore, not covered under Phase I
Excluded	Not applicable (as of 2019)	NBFCs with net worth below ₹250 crore continue under existing Accounting Standards

Table 3. RBI/MCA roadmap for NBFC applicability of Ind AS. Source: Companies (Ind AS) (Amendment) Rules, 2016; ClearTax (n.d.); ICAI Board of Studies (n.d.).

The table presents the phase-wise roadmap for the adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) as prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Phase I, effective from 1 April 2018, made Ind AS mandatory for listed and unlisted NBFCs with a net worth of ₹500 crore or more, as well as all listed NBFCs irrespective of their net worth. Phase II, effective from 1 April 2019, extended the applicability to NBFCs having a net worth between ₹250 crore and ₹500 crore. However, NBFCs with a net worth below ₹250 crore remained outside the scope of mandatory Ind AS adoption and continued to follow the existing Accounting Standards. Overall, the phased implementation ensured a gradual transition to Ind AS, allowing larger NBFCs to adopt international reporting practices first while reducing the compliance burden on smaller financial institutions.

4.4. Status of Financial-Sector Entities

Entity Class	Original Target	Status as of 2019	Regulator
Scheduled Commercial Banks	FY 2018-19	Deferred indefinitely (notification dated 22 March 2019), pending legislative amendment to the Banking Regulation Act	RBI
Insurance Companies	FY 2020-21 (revised)	Deferred; separate Ind AS for insurers not brought into force	IRDAI
NBFCs (Phase I & II)	FY 2018-19 / FY 2019-20	Implemented as per roadmap	MCA / RBI
Non-financial corporates (Phase I & II)	FY 2016-17 / FY 2017-18	Implemented as per roadmap	MCA

Table 4. Comparative implementation status across regulated entity classes, as of 2019. Source: MBG Corporate (n.d.); Reserve Bank of India (2019); ClearTax (n.d.).

Table 4.4 highlights the implementation status of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) across different financial-sector entities as of 2019. The table shows that non-financial corporates and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) successfully implemented Ind AS according to the phase-wise roadmap prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). In contrast, Scheduled Commercial Banks and Insurance Companies experienced delays in adoption. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred the implementation for banks indefinitely due to the need for legislative amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, while the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) postponed implementation because a separate Ind AS framework for insurers had not yet been finalized. Overall, the table indicates that although Ind AS implementation progressed effectively in the corporate and NBFC sectors, regulatory and sector-specific complexities delayed its adoption in the banking and insurance industries.

4.5. Synthesis of Literature-Reported Implementation Challenges

Theme	Representative Source(s)	Nature of the Problem Reported
Fair-value measurement	Kalra & Vardia (2016); Gupta & Sharma (2018)	Difficulty in obtaining reliable fair-value inputs for unquoted financial instruments and property, plant and equipment; volatility introduced into reported profits.
Professional / skill readiness	Gupta & Sharma (2018); Kaaya & Noorbasha (2019)	Shortage of accountants and auditors trained in Ind AS/IFRS-based judgement-intensive standards (e.g., financial instruments, business combinations).
Transition cost	Gupta & Sharma (2018)	High one-time costs of restating comparative financial statements, system reconfiguration and staff training.
IT and system readiness	Gupta & Sharma (2018); Kaaya & Noorbasha (2019)	Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems required significant reconfiguration to capture Ind AS-compliant data (e.g., effective-interest-rate amortisation, expected credit

DOI: 10.48175/IJETIR-8007

Theme	Representative Source(s)	Nature of the Problem Reported
		loss).
Regulatory coordination	Kaaya & Noorbasha (2019)	Divergent timelines across MCA, SEBI, RBI and IRDAI created uncertainty, particularly for financial-sector entities and their non-financial group companies.
Carve-outs / comparability	Ball (2016); De George et al. (2016)	Carve-outs from IFRS (e.g., in accounting for certain foreign-exchange gains/losses) reduce full comparability with IFRS-reporting jurisdictions even after convergence.

Table 5. Thematic synthesis of implementation challenges reported in the reviewed literature. Source: author's synthesis of Kalra & Vardia (2016); Gupta & Sharma (2018); Kaaya & Noorbasha (2019); Ball (2016); De George, Li, & Shivakumar (2016).

Table 4.5 presents a thematic synthesis of the major implementation challenges associated with the adoption of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as identified in the reviewed literature. The findings indicate that organizations encountered significant difficulties in fair-value measurement due to the lack of reliable market data, while a shortage of adequately trained accounting professionals hindered the effective application of judgement-based standards. High transition costs, including financial statement restatements, staff training, and information technology (IT) system upgrades, further increased the implementation burden. The literature also highlights challenges arising from inconsistent regulatory timelines among the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), particularly for financial-sector entities. Additionally, the existence of certain Ind AS carve-outs from International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) limited complete international comparability. Overall, the synthesis suggests that although Ind AS has strengthened financial reporting practices in India, its successful implementation requires enhanced professional capacity, technological preparedness, regulatory coordination, and greater alignment with global accounting standards.

4.6. Interpretation

Read together, Tables 1 through 5 address the three research questions directly. In relation to RQ1 (extent of adoption and compliance), Tables 2 and 3 show that the MCA roadmap for corporates and NBFCs was implemented broadly on schedule between 2016 and 2019, with automatic coverage extended to holding, subsidiary, associate and joint-venture companies, which considerably widened the effective compliance base beyond the entities directly meeting the net-worth or listing thresholds. However, Table 4 shows that compliance was not sector-uniform: banks and insurers, which together represent a very large share of national balance-sheet assets, remained outside Ind AS as of 2019 because of RBI and IRDAI deferments, indicating that formal adoption and effective, economy-wide compliance are distinct phenomena that should not be conflated in policy evaluation.

In relation to RQ2 (problems and challenges), Table 5 shows that the difficulties reported in the literature cluster around five recurring themes — fair-value measurement, professional readiness, transition cost, IT-system readiness, and regulatory coordination — each of which is corroborated by more than one independent source. This convergence across studies published between 2016 and 2019 suggests that these are structural, rather than isolated or firm-specific, implementation problems.

In relation to RQ3 (role of regulators and governance mechanisms), Table 1 demonstrates an active, iterative regulatory process: the MCA issued amendment rules in three successive years (2016, 2017 and 2018) to refine applicability and incorporate updated standards, while SEBI aligned its disclosure regulations with the MCA roadmap in March 2016. At the same time, the RBI's March 2019 deferment notification illustrates that sectoral regulators retained independent authority to modify the timeline for their regulated entities, which — consistent with Kaaya and Noorbasha's (2019) recommendation — points to a coordination gap between the corporate-law regulator and the financial-sector regulators rather than a single, unified convergence calendar.

V. THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The MCA's phase-wise roadmap for non-financial corporates (Phase I from 1 April 2016; Phase II from 1 April 2017) was implemented on schedule, with automatic extension to group entities substantially widening the compliance base.
2. NBFCs followed a distinct, later roadmap (Phase I from 1 April 2018; Phase II from 1 April 2019), reflecting sector-specific sequencing by the MCA in consultation with the RBI.
3. Scheduled commercial banks and insurance companies had not adopted Ind AS as of 2019; the RBI's notification of 22 March 2019 deferred bank implementation indefinitely pending legislative amendment, and IRDAI similarly deferred insurer implementation.
4. Reported implementation problems cluster consistently around fair-value measurement, shortage of trained professionals, high transition costs, IT/ERP-system reconfiguration, and cross-regulator coordination gaps.
5. The MCA issued amendment rules in three consecutive years (2016-2018), indicating that Ind AS convergence was treated as an iterative, evolving regulatory process rather than a single one-time notification.
6. International literature (De George et al., 2016; Ball, 2016) suggests that the economic benefits of IFRS-style convergence are conditional on enforcement and institutional quality; this is consistent with the sector-differentiated compliance pattern observed in India, where non-financial corporates under direct MCA/SEBI oversight adopted on schedule while financial-sector entities under separate regulators did not.
7. Indian studies published between 2016 and 2019 (Kalra & Vardia, 2016; Gupta & Sharma, 2018; Kaaya & Noorbasha, 2019) converge on the conclusion that the anticipated benefits of enhanced comparability and transparency were broadly acknowledged by preparers, but their realisation was constrained by professional-capacity and system-readiness gaps rather than by resistance to the policy objective itself.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Unified regulatory calendar: The MCA, SEBI, RBI and IRDAI should establish a jointly agreed convergence calendar, particularly for financial-sector entities whose group structures often include both Ind AS-compliant and non-compliant entities, to reduce the coordination gap identified in Table 1 and Section 4.6.
2. Capacity building for professionals: The ICAI, in coordination with academic institutions, should expand structured training in judgement-intensive areas such as fair-value measurement, expected-credit-loss modelling and business combinations, which were the most frequently cited skill gaps in the literature reviewed (Gupta & Sharma, 2018; Kaaya & Noorbasha, 2019).
3. Phased, sector-appropriate roadmap for banks and insurers: Given the balance-sheet complexity of banks and insurers, regulators should consider a clearly sequenced, time-bound roadmap (rather than an indefinite deferment) accompanied by the necessary legislative amendments, to avoid prolonged uncertainty for these systemically important entities.
4. Support for transition cost: Government or industry-body support (for example, subsidised training programmes or shared ERP-implementation guidance) could reduce the disproportionate transition-cost burden reported by mid-sized companies.
5. Periodic post-implementation review: A formal post-implementation review mechanism, similar to the ICAI's 2018 impact-analysis exercise, should be institutionalised at fixed intervals to identify emerging carve-out or comparability issues as new IFRS pronouncements are issued internationally.

VII. CONCLUSION

The adoption of Indian Accounting Standards between 2015 and 2019 represents a substantial and largely successful regulatory achievement for India's non-financial corporate sector, executed through a clearly notified, phase-wise roadmap issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and reinforced by aligned action from the Securities and Exchange Board of India. At the same time, the study's documentary evidence shows that convergence remained incomplete for the banking and insurance sectors as of 2019, and that even among compliant entities, implementation was accompanied by well-documented challenges in fair-value measurement, professional readiness, transition cost and information-systems reconfiguration. These findings are consistent with the broader international literature's conclusion that the economic benefits of IFRS-style convergence are conditional on institutional enforcement and professional capacity rather than automatic upon notification of new standards. A coordinated, time-bound roadmap for the remaining financial-sector entities, combined with sustained investment in professional training, would be necessary to complete India's convergence journey and to realise the comparability and transparency benefits that motivated the reform.

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