



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Viksit Bharat @2047: A vision for India's sustainable development

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Abstract

Viksit Bharat@2047: A Vision for India's sustainable development represents a transformative roadmap for India's growth and development by the centenary of its independence. This ambitious vision aims to build a nation that is economically robust, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. Anchored in the values of progress and equity, Viksit Bharat@2047 seeks to integrate social welfare, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity to address the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world.

Key pillars of this vision include advancing technological innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting skill development to support a knowledge-based economy. Emphasis on renewable energy, eco-friendly practices, and climate resilience reflects a commitment to sustainable practices that protect natural resources and biodiversity for future generations. Moreover, it advocates for good governance and transparency to ensure accountable and responsive institutions, alongside a focus on international cooperation to address global challenges collaboratively.

Viksit Bharat@2047 also underscores the importance of inclusivity, with targeted initiatives to uplift marginalized communities, empower youth, and reduce inequalities across regions and sectors. Through collaborative efforts across government, private sector, and civil society, this vision strives to position India as a global leader in sustainable and equitable growth. Viksit Bharat@2047 is not only a pathway to development but also a testament to India's dedication to creating a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient future for all its citizens.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, economic growth, self sufficiency, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, good governance

Introduction

Viksit Bharat@2047 is an economic, social and political objective. It calls for the collective efforts of citizens, government bodies, and civil society to bring about transformative change. This mission encompasses fostering inclusivity, reducing inequality, promoting education and skill development, enhancing healthcare, ensuring environmental sustainability, and preserving cultural heritage. By focusing on holistic progress, India aims to build a society that thrives on equity, innovation, and

shared prosperity for all its people. Relevant literature is likely to explore policy frameworks, technological progress, socio-economic strategies, environmental protection measures, renewable energy adoption, infrastructure planning, and public health improvements that align with India's sustainability objectives for 2047. Scholarly work may also examine projected shifts in demographics, urbanization trends, climate-resilient agriculture, water resource stewardship, air quality improvement efforts, eco-friendly construction, efficient waste management systems, expanded healthcare access—including preventive health strategies aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs)—and education reforms focused on skills suited to future job demands. Together with digital transformation across various sectors, these areas of research could play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047." India stands at a pivotal moment in its history, poised to embrace a new era of growth and global influence (Agrawal, D., Patil, B., Sairam, S., & Chaudhary, P. 2021).

This economic ascent is fuelled by India's young and dynamic workforce, a burgeoning middle class, and advancements in technology and innovation. The country's expanding digital infrastructure, along with its leadership

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in sectors like information technology, manufacturing, and renewable energy, further enhances its competitive edge on the global stage (Buchan, J. C., Thiel, C. L., Steyn, A., Somner, J., Venkatesh, R., Burton, M. J., & Ramke, J. 2022). Additionally, India's growing influence in international trade, strategic partnerships, and global diplomacy will solidify its position as a key player in the global economy. To capitalize on this momentum, India must focus on inclusive growth, reducing inequality, enhancing human capital, and fostering sustainable development. With the right policies and investments, India is on track to become one of the world's leading economic powers, shaping the future of the global order.

From 321 BC to 1857 AD, India saw transformative shifts in its economy and society, marked by the influential reigns of the Maurya, Gupta, and Mughal Empires, each contributing significantly to India's cultural and economic foundations. During this period, advancements in administration, trade, and urban development shaped Indian society. However, with the arrival and eventual dominance of the British East India Company, India entered a new phase as British rule gradually consolidated, impacting the country's structure and governance.

India's economy remained predominantly agrarian, yet British colonial influence introduced technologies like railways, telegraphs, and improved port facilities, which facilitated trade but also enabled easier extraction and export of resources. This period witnessed substantial exploitation of natural and human resources, leading to a widening socio-economic gap and setting the stage for economic dependency on Britain. After gaining independence, India faced the complex task of rebuilding and addressing the social and economic inequalities rooted in colonial rule. The government implemented a series of policies and programs aimed at land reforms, industrialization, poverty alleviation, education, and infrastructure development to foster self-reliance, reduce socio-economic disparities, and lay the foundation for a progressive nation.

India adopted a planned economy approach post-independence, launching its first Five-Year Plan in 1951. These plans focused on accelerating infrastructure development, boosting agricultural productivity, and promoting industrial growth to reduce dependence on foreign goods. The early plans prioritized land reforms, rural development, and building key infrastructure such as dams and power plants, which were seen as essential for self-sufficiency. They also emphasized the establishment of public sector enterprises to drive heavy industries, support economic growth, and generate employment. Alongside economic goals, the plans aimed to address social challenges by improving education, healthcare, and reducing poverty. This planned approach reflected India's vision of balanced, equitable growth and laid the groundwork for long-term economic transformation.

The Green Revolution, initiated in the 1960s, sought to significantly boost agricultural productivity through the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties, improved irrigation systems, and modern farming techniques. This movement introduced advanced seed varieties, particularly for staple crops like wheat and rice, which dramatically increased output and helped alleviate food scarcity in India. In addition to high-yield seeds, the Green Revolution promoted the extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides to protect crops and maximize yields. Investment in rural infrastructure, such as better irrigation channels and access to modern machinery, enabled farmers to enhance efficiency and reduce dependence on unpredictable monsoons.

While it successfully transformed India from a food-deficit nation to one capable of self-sufficiency, the Green Revolution also had environmental impacts, such as soil degradation and water depletion, highlighting the need for sustainable farming practices in the future. The White Revolution aimed to significantly increase milk production and improve nutrition across India. Dr. Verghese Kurien, this initiative—often referred to as “Operation Flood”—revolutionized India's dairy industry by establishing a vast network of milk cooperatives. The White Revolution promoted better livestock management, modern dairy farming practices, and widespread adoption of crossbreeding to enhance milk yield. This initiative empowered rural farmers by providing them with better market access and fair prices, ultimately boosting rural incomes and contributing to poverty reduction. As a result of the White Revolution, India became one of the world's largest milk producers, making dairy products more accessible and affordable for the population. The initiative not only improved nutrition but also strengthened rural economies and created millions of job opportunities in the dairy sector.

India embarked on a path of economic liberalization in the 1990s, marking a major shift towards a more open, market-driven economy. This reform era introduced significant policy changes that encouraged foreign trade and investment, aiming to integrate India more fully into the global economy. Key reforms included reducing import tariffs, easing restrictions on foreign direct investment (FDI), and removing licensing barriers across various industries. This liberalization facilitated the growth of sectors such as IT, telecommunications, and automotive manufacturing, making India an attractive destination for international businesses. The economic reforms stimulated rapid GDP growth, increased employment opportunities, and raised living standards for millions. They also spurred competition and innovation within the Indian market, benefiting consumers with a wider range of goods and services. While liberalization accelerated economic development, it also highlighted the need for balanced growth to address

inequalities across different regions and sectors (Mensah, J. 2019). The initiative sought to ensure universal access to digital services, bridge the digital divide, and promote the use of technology across various sectors, including education, healthcare, governance, and commerce.

Key objectives included expanding broadband connectivity across rural and urban areas, enhancing digital literacy, and providing citizens with access to government services through e-governance platforms. The initiative also focused on promoting digital payments, facilitating online entrepreneurship, and fostering innovation through the creation of tech hubs and startup ecosystems. By leveraging technology to streamline services and improve transparency, Digital India aimed to drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and make India a global leader in the digital space. The initiative has played a significant role in promoting financial inclusion, empowering citizens, and catalyzing the country's overall technological advancement.

To achieve this ambitious goal, India must address the current challenges it faces while building on its existing achievements. This includes overcoming issues such as poverty, inequality, inadequate healthcare, and infrastructure deficits (Sharma, R. 2009). It will also require significant investments in education, skill development, and innovation to prepare the workforce for the future economy. Sustainable growth, environmental conservation, and efficient resource management will be key to ensuring long-term prosperity.

Additionally, India must focus on inclusive development, ensuring that all regions and communities benefit from the country's progress. Strengthening governance, fostering a digital economy, and promoting entrepreneurship will be essential in creating a dynamic, competitive, and resilient nation. By leveraging its strengths in technology, agriculture, and human capital, India can transform its vision of a developed country into a reality by 2047.

India's Path to Progress – A Pivotal Opportunity at a Critical Turning Point.

This is India's Amrit Kaal — a transformative phase in the nation's history. India has undergone remarkable changes across various sectors and is now poised for a period of accelerated growth (Sustainable Development in India. (n.d.)). Over the past few years, significant expansions have taken place in both social and economic infrastructure, driven by progressive policies and schemes such as Samagra Shiksha, the expansion of universities, IITs, IIMs, medical and nursing colleges, and the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) for skill development, among others.

The higher education sector has witnessed exponential growth, with the number of universities, colleges, and standalone institutions multiplying in recent years. The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education has steadily risen

to 28.4, reflecting a significant improvement in educational access and inclusivity.

Similarly, the healthcare sector has seen impressive expansion. The extensive network of nearly 13.97 lakh Anganwadi centers now serves around 10 crore children with Early Childhood Care and Education. Key health indicators such as Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), and malnutrition among children have dramatically improved. Over 10 crore women and children are now covered under the Poshan Mission, which aims to combat malnutrition. Immunization coverage has increased significantly, with the percentage of fully vaccinated children rising from 62 to 81%, thanks to initiatives like Mission Indradhanush.

In rural India, remarkable progress is also evident. The nation is on the brink of achieving, or has already achieved, universal coverage in essential services such as electricity, drinking water, bank accounts, road connectivity, and mobile services. Rural areas are beginning to enjoy the same benefits as urban regions, bridging the development gap. Programs like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been crucial in providing relief and stability to the rural poor.

India's progress has been widespread, with a significant rise in mobile phone and internet penetration. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem has seen explosive growth, with 30 crore UPI users and over 1,000 crore transactions per month, accounting for more than 40% of all digital transactions in India. The expansion of India's highway network, including the development of expressways and improvements in railway infrastructure, such as the introduction of Vande Bharat trains, have made transportation faster and more efficient. The aviation sector has also seen unprecedented growth, with air travel reaching new heights (Purohit, S. 2024).

In science and technology, India continues to set new benchmarks, particularly through achievements like Chandrayaan and other space missions. The country's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), which includes platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, AA Stack, COWIN, and GeM, has gained global recognition and is the envy of many nations. India is steadily advancing toward becoming a global manufacturing hub, while its service sectors, especially in IT and non-IT domains, are increasingly becoming globally competitive. The creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and innovation potential of India's youth, supported by government initiatives like Digital India and Startup India, are enabling a new generation of job creators. India now boasts over 100 unicorns, with a total valuation exceeding US\$ 340 billion, positioning the country as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem (Viksit Bharat@2047 – Central University of Tamilnadu. (n.d.)).

However, the most powerful factor driving India's future is its demographic dividend. The country accounts for nearly 20% of the global youth population, offering an enormous opportunity for the next few decades, likely lasting until 2047. If this demographic advantage is leveraged effectively, it can serve as a key engine to propel India toward becoming a "Viksit Bharat" — a developed nation.

The vision for Viksit Bharat@2047 includes social advancement, environmental sustainability, and good governance.

Economic growth

Viksit Bharat@2047's vision acknowledges that innovation, entrepreneurship, and technological advancement are critical drivers of a thriving economy. By strategically investing in key sectors like technology, manufacturing, infrastructure, and renewable energy, India aims to position itself as a global economic powerhouse. The focus on inclusive growth is crucial, ensuring that the benefits of economic progress are shared across all sections of society. Efforts will be made to bridge regional and social disparities, creating opportunities for underserved communities and promoting equitable access to resources. Furthermore, fostering a competitive business environment, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and enhancing the ease of doing business will contribute to generating employment and uplifting the standard of living for all citizens. With a forward-looking approach, India seeks not only economic growth but also prosperity that touches every citizen.

Social progress

Viksit Bharat@2047 focuses on social progress. The vision envisions a society where access to education is universal, healthcare is guaranteed as a fundamental right, and social equality is the cornerstone of national development. Key initiatives will be aimed at empowering women, supporting marginalized communities, and promoting diversity and inclusion across all sectors of society. Strengthening social security systems, ensuring access to affordable housing, and improving access to clean water and sanitation are essential to creating a more equitable society. Additionally, policies that foster skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurship will be critical in ensuring that all citizens can participate in and benefit from the country's economic and social growth. By prioritizing inclusive policies and reducing inequalities, Viksit Bharat@2047 seeks to build a society where every individual, regardless of gender, caste, or background, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the nation's progress.

Environmental sustainability

Viksit Bharat@2047 emphasizes the critical importance of sustainable development, advocating for a harmonious

balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship. The vision prioritizes the adoption of green technologies, renewable energy sources, and eco-friendly practices across various industries to minimize the environmental footprint. The initiative aims to accelerate the transition to clean energy, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power while promoting energy efficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Stricter environmental regulations and the enforcement of conservation policies will be key to safeguarding India's rich biodiversity and natural resources. The vision also stresses the need for innovative solutions in waste management, water conservation, and pollution control to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment (Mohapatra, S., & Pohit, S. 2024). Additionally, the protection of forests, wildlife, and natural habitats will be central to the country's sustainability efforts. By promoting circular economy principles and encouraging responsible consumption, Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to create an environmentally resilient India, ensuring that natural resources are preserved for the benefit of future generations while achieving economic and social progress.

Innovation and technology

At the heart of Viksit Bharat@2047 is a firm commitment to leveraging innovation and technology as driving forces for national development. Strategic investments in research and development (R&D), the promotion of a knowledge-driven economy, and the adoption of emerging technologies are fundamental to achieving this vision. The goal is to transform India into a global leader in innovation by fostering an ecosystem that supports creativity, entrepreneurship, and cutting-edge solutions across all sectors. With a focus on artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and digital transformation, India aims to harness the potential of these technologies to address pressing societal challenges and drive economic growth (Padder, A. H., 2023). The vision also advocates for creating a robust framework for startups, encouraging the development of new products and services that can meet both domestic and global demands. By nurturing a culture of innovation, fostering partnerships between industry, academia, and government, and providing the necessary infrastructure, Viksit Bharat@2047 seeks to empower the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs (Sustainable Development Goals | United Nations in India. (n.d.)).

Good governance

Viksit Bharat@2047 promotes good governance. Transparent, accountable, and responsive governance practices will be central to the vision, as they are key to creating a system that works for the people. The vision focuses on reforming bureaucratic processes, simplifying administrative procedures, and reducing red tape to improve efficiency and effectiveness in public administration. Anti-corruption

measures will be strengthened, ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and transparently. In addition, enhancing the efficiency of public institutions and delivering services in a timely and effective manner is a top priority (Burton, M. J., Ramke, J., Marques, A. P., Bourne, R. R. A., Congdon, N., Jones, I., Ah Tong, B. A. M., Arunga, S., Bachani, D., Bascaran, C., Bastawrous, A., Blanchet, K., Braithwaite, T., Buchan, J. C., Cairns, J., Cama, A., Chagunda, M., Chuluunkhuu, C., Cooper, A., ... Faal, H. B. 2021). Citizen engagement and participation in decision-making processes will be encouraged through digital platforms, ensuring that government actions reflect the needs and aspirations of the people. By fostering a culture of accountability, inclusivity, and responsiveness, Viksit Bharat@2047 seeks to build a government that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

International collaboration

Viksit Bharat@2047 recognizes the importance of global interconnectedness in today's world and the value of forging strong international partnerships. To realize its ambitious goals, India aims to deepen collaborations with other nations, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge, technology, and best practices. Through strategic alliances, India seeks to accelerate its development across various sectors—such as science, healthcare, energy, and infrastructure—by adopting globally successful models and innovations. Joint research initiatives, skill-sharing programs, and cross-border investments will play key roles in driving sustainable growth and innovation (Bhatia, A. K., Singhal, G., & Arora, M. S. 2024, September). Additionally, India is committed to addressing shared global challenges such as climate change, public health crises, and cybersecurity by actively engaging in multilateral forums and working together with global partners. By strengthening these international ties, Viksit Bharat@2047 envisions India as an influential player on the world stage, collaborating to foster global stability, progress, and prosperity.

Viksit Bharat@2047 represents India's profound commitment to building a future that is economically resilient, socially just, environmentally conscious, and governed with integrity. As the nation approaches its 100th year of independence, this ambitious vision captures the collective hopes and ambitions of over a billion citizens, united in their pursuit of a developed and forward-looking India (Chopra, R., & Bisht, C. (2024). This initiative is not only about economic growth but also about fostering an inclusive society where opportunities are accessible to all and progress touches every corner of the nation. By prioritizing social equity, sustainable practices, and transparent governance, Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to create a lasting impact for generations to come. It honors India's rich history while advancing toward a future that is globally competitive and inclusive. Through unwavering determination and

collaboration, this vision seeks to transform India into a beacon of progress, resilience, and unity—creating a legacy that truly reflects the spirit of a thriving and empowered nation.

Conclusion

By 2047, India aims to seamlessly blend social inclusivity, environmental preservation, and economic progress into its sustainable development strategy. However, challenges such as income inequality, poverty, and the need for accelerated technological advancement remain significant. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals align closely with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, though realizing this vision will require active youth participation, comprehensive climate action, and strong legislative support.

In addition, emphasis on building resilient infrastructure, enhancing rural-urban connectivity, and strengthening public health and education systems will be essential. With a focus on renewable energy, green technology, and responsible resource management, India aims to lead by example in sustainable practices. This ambitious vision will rely on collaborative efforts across sectors, ongoing policy reform, and a commitment to adapting to evolving global standards—positioning India as a leader in sustainable, inclusive, and equitable growth by its centennial year of independence.

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