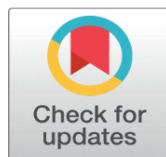
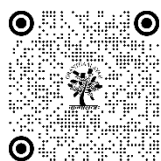


## VIKSIT BHARAT: A ROAD AHEAD

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### DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.5336](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.5336)

**Funding:** This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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### ABSTRACT

Viksit Bharat@2047 outlines a bold and broad qualitative/ transformative roadmap for India's development by its 100th year of independence. This vision emphasizes a balanced approach integrating economic strength, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Key pillars include promoting innovation in technology, entrepreneurship, and skill development to build a knowledge-driven economy. It prioritizes renewable energy, climate resilience, and eco-friendly practices to ensure sustainable growth. The initiative also lays emphasis on good governance, transparency, and international cooperation to address global and local challenges. With a strong focus on inclusive growth, it seeks to uplift marginalized groups, empower youth, and reduce inequality, positioning India as a leader in equitable and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Vikshit Bharat, Innovation, Sustainability, Inclusive, Transparency, Good Governance

## 1. THE IDEATIONAL CONTOURS

Viksit Bharat@2047 is a comprehensive idea encapsulating economic, social, and political restructuring in such a way that will transform India into a developed nation/ state by the centenary of its independence. The vision however requires concrete, consistent and collaborative efforts from citizens, government agencies, and civil society to bring about changes which will not only be transformative but inclusive as well. In order to achieve this vision the areas of national priorities include a transparent government which will ensure sustainable economic growth, robust healthcare systems, a much needed reshaped educational system and development and imparting of socially and economically relevant skills. In other words, the initiative aspires to create a just and equitable society built on the preamble's principles of justice : social, economic and political. Current and future scholarly research is expected to focus on areas such as new policy initiatives for advancement in technology, greater emphasis on alternative/ renewable sources for clean energy, improving public health services and above all strategising for symmetry in socio-economic structures. These themes align with broader goals of sustainable growth/ development which may ultimately contribute to its evolving role as a global leader in equitable and resilient progress. In support of the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, scholarly work is increasingly expected to explore a wide array of interconnected developmental priorities. These include growing patterns of urbanisation due to expected shifts in demographics and innovations in sustainable agriculture to address food security in a changing climate. Research is also likely to focus on effective and efficient

management of water resources, ways and means to improve air quality, eco-friendly construction, and efficient waste management systems, all of which are essential for building sustainable urban and rural ecosystems.

Further, keeping in mind the sustainable development goals concerted efforts will be directed toward revamping existing systems of health care services with emphasis not only on expansion but also the implementation of preventive health measures. Another important sector which will undergo significant changes is education—especially in developing future-ready skills—as it will play a crucial role in preparing India's youth for the demands of a dynamic economy in the era of globalisation. Additionally, this would require technological innovation particularly digitisation of governance and delivery of services. Moreover, in the pursuit of a technology-driven and inclusive economy India is expected to strengthen desired research in the areas such as infrastructure and industry. As India stands at a critical juncture in its development journey, this multidisciplinary research will be pivotal in shaping policies and innovations that will advance its aspiration to become a globally influential, sustainable, and equitable nation by 2047.

India's journey toward achieving the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision is supported by her contemporary demographic advantages in the form of large young and dynamic workforce, a fast growing middle class. Furthermore, rapid digitisation of economic activities coupled with leadership in critical sectors such as information technology, manufacturing and renewable/clean energy has given the desired boost to its role in international trade, strategic partnerships. In fact growing economic power and global diplomatic engagement has led to rise of India as a key player for reshaped global economic order ensuring justice/equity.

To fully capitalize on this momentum, India must continue to prioritize inclusive growth, human capital development, and the reduction of socio-economic inequalities, while ensuring sustainable and environmentally responsible development. Strategic investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and digital innovation are essential to solidify its trajectory toward becoming one of the world's foremost economic powers by 2047. With coherent policies and cross-sector collaboration, India is well-poised to lead not just nationally but also on the global stage in advancing equitable and sustainable progress.

## 2. GENEALOGICAL PHASES

However, before delving deep into the problems and prospects of the thematic goals of Vikshit Bharat it would not be out of context to sketch a brief genealogical outline of evolution of India from ancient period to the present. Between 321 BC and 1857 AD, India underwent profound socio-economic changes under the monarchical reign of major empires, notably the Maurya, Gupta, and Mughal dynasties. Each of these contributed significantly to the subcontinent's cultural ethos, administrative tools and techniques along with economic development. The Mauryan Empire is credited for establishing a strong centralised government and reaching out globally for expansion of its trade. The Gupta period is often hailed as a Golden Age of intellectual and cultural development. The medieval period in general and Mughal era in particular is remembered for administering agrarian sectors, enriching architecture and integrating economy with global trade and commerce. However, with the arrival of colonial powers of Europe in general and the British in particular the social, economic, as well as cultural transformation began to take shape which replaced almost the entire system of economic, agricultural and administrative structures as well as practices. This period of transition laid the groundwork for the nationalist movements and development debates that would shape modern India. Though the colonial regime was based primarily on economic exploitation but introduction of many modern technologies like railways, ports and telegraphs etc. contributed significantly towards modern methods of communication and connectivity which are backbone of rapid development. No doubt their self-centric approach to development led to a serious socio-economic division which was bound to have negative consequences for a long period. However, this period of colonial subjugation acted as galvanising force for India which is clearly reflected in the tone and tenor of the debates about socio-economic developmental goals of independent India.

The post independence period began with mammoth task of building the infrastructure for a ravaged economy on the modern lines. It was imperative to ensure that the economic development does not act as a catalyst for asymmetrical socio-economic developments. Moreover, as outlined during the national movement the newly independent nation had to address the issues of national integration and social harmony without which rapid development towards achieving self-reliance would have been meaningless. It was not surprising therefore that India began its post-colonial journey of development through an institutional mechanism called planning commission. As was expected the thrust of initial five year plans centred around rapid development of infrastructure, industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture. The

basic goal was to reduce dependence on imported goods and achieve self reliance within the declared framework of growth with justice. However, in the absence of a strong private sector it was decided to adopt mixed economy whereby the state would play greater roles in investing capital for the development of infrastructure like power, transport networks, dams etc through public sector enterprises. These state supported public sector units were supposed to cater not only the economic needs but also as a means of addressing social issues like employment. This state sponsored machinery also became a nodal agency to look after the rapid development in social sectors in general and education and health services in particular.

Having laid the strong foundations of planned development for long term economic transformation within the framework of equity the first few years were dedicated to infrastructure and industrial development. However, 1960s witnessed cataclysmic changes in the agrarian policies that led to surge in the overall output of agricultural products. This policy initiative by the planning commission was intended to address the issues of scarcity of food production which pushed the economy towards imports of food grain. The policy makers introduced new and modern methods of agriculture involving package program. Under this initiative, particularly in staple crops like wheat and and rice seeds of high yielding varieties and usage of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and mechanized tools were promoted which led to substantial increases in agricultural output. No doubt the investment in agricultural sector in general and popularisation of package programs particularly in staple products like wheat and rice led to increased productivity but at the same time it also contributed to a debate around ecological and environmental sustainability, degradation of soil, regional as well as social disparities etc. In other words the Green Revolution on the one hand succeeded in helping the economy to achieve self reliance in agricultural production but on the other hand it led to dangerous social divide which started manifesting in different ways in different parts of the country. The rural economy was given another boost by operation flood or white revolution which intended to achieve two goals; increasing production of milk and improving nutritional standards throughout India. It succeeded not only in revolutionising dairy industry but also ensured economic prosperity/ empowerment of rural people in general and marginalised farmers in particular.

If the planners were initially concerned with developing infrastructure and building heavy industries following with achieving development of rural sectors through green and white revolutions their focus shifted towards opening up the economy in the 1990s. Since early initiatives have achieved remarkable success in the path of development the policy makers thought that the transition towards integration with global market economy was necessary for further growth which needed to accelerate economic liberalisation. As a consequence India decided to sign the general agreement on trade and tariffs which opened the path for restructuring import tariffs, redefining process of foreign direct investment and liberalisation of licensing policies. It led to desired outcomes in the form of growth in manufacturing sectors like automobile and service sectors like telecommunications and information technology as India started getting investments which gave boost to its growth in terms of GDP. Moreover it helped in generating employment opportunities for the youth which subsequently led to rapid growth of middle class. However, liberalisation led to regional as well as sectoral imbalances which cropped up as a major challenge for the policy makers. In the given situation emerged vision of Vikshit Bharat which clearly defined that it would transform the socio- economic system in such a way that would ensure inclusive growth with a focus on universal access to digital services, reducing the digital divide and increasing the modern technological infrastructure in the areas like education, health, governance and commerce etc. In other words the initial objective of growth with justice stayed as the main pillar of Vikshit Bharat.

It is important, however, to keep in mind that the goal of Vikshit Bharat may not become a reality unless socio-economic asymmetrical structures are done away with. In other words the fruits of development should guarantee equitable distribution and inclusion at all levels, social, economic and regional. This requires targeted efforts to reduce regional disparities, uplift marginalized groups, and ensure that the progress of urban areas is mirrored in rural and underserved regions. Good governance and effective management of leadership shall act as a catalyst in building trust and ensuring that development reaches all citizens. Additionally, promoting a digital economy, enhancing entrepreneurship, and creating a conducive environment for innovation will play a vital role in driving economic resilience and competitiveness. By leveraging its strengths in technology, agriculture, and human capital, India has the potential to harness its vast resources and transform itself into a developed country by 2047. A focus on sustainability, education, and inclusive policy-making will be key to realizing this ambitious transformation.

India's entry in the era of stability driven development which is also referred as Amrit Kaal signifies a phase of qualitative transformation of the country which has seen a period of rapid economic growth and societal change. Over the past few years, the country has experienced remarkable expansions across various sectors, particularly in education

and healthcare . In fact government's focus on expansion of qualitative education through opening and developing centres of higher education and research institutes alongwith new initiatives on skill based training centres have led to expansion of access to quality education and skill enhancement. Similarly, the healthcare sector has seen extensive growth along with positive health indicators in areas like infant and maternal mortality rates and reduced rates of malnutrition etc. These developments reflect India's determination to ensure sustainable development and create an inclusive future for all its citizens .

India's rural areas have witnessed remarkable progress in recent years, with the country on the verge of achieving, or already achieving, universal coverage in essential or critical services such as power, safe potable water, access to banking services, road and telecom connectivity etc. This progress is helping bridge the rural-urban development gap, ensuring that rural communities begin to enjoy the same benefits as urban regions. Many policy and program initiatives have been initiated which have provided significant relief and stability to the rural poor, particularly improving food security and employment opportunities. The spread of mobile phone and access to internet connectivity has further empowered rural citizens, driving economic and social inclusion. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem, with seamless access countrywide of all digital transactions in India, has successfully been promoting and supporting the idea of financial inclusion in real terms. Additionally, the expansion of India's highway network, along with the development of expressways and enhancements in railway infrastructure (such as the introduction of Vande Bharat trains), has made transportation faster and more efficient. India's civil aviation sector has also seen unprecedented growth, with air travel reaching new heights, thereby enhancing connectivity and stimulating economic growth. These developments reflect India's commitment to equitable development and the empowerment of rural areas, ensuring that the benefits of progress reach every corner of the nation.

The remarkable achievements in the realm of science and technology has provided another opportunity for finishing its own target of a developed country within the stipulated timeframe. Indian scientists have demonstrated their ability in almost every field and their achievements have been recognised by international communities. The successful launch of Chandrayan space mission with many other space programs are its examples. There are many examples of successful strides in other areas of digital governance and delivery of public services. It includes Digital public infrastructure which are successfully operating like Aadhar, Unified Payments Interface, COWIN and Government -e Marketplace etc. These above mentioned applications have certainly proved India's commitment to financial inclusion , transparency and digital empowerment through innovation. Another flagship initiative has been Make in India which is intended to establish India as a manufacturing hub. Furthermore, the initiatives like Digital India and Startup India has emerged as strong sectors for job creation.

One of the most powerful factors driving India's future growth is its demographic dividend. With almost one fifth of the world's energetic and productive youth population India is uniquely positioned to utilise its youthful workforce over the coming decades, potentially until 2047. This vast pool of young talent offers a tremendous opportunity to fuel economic growth, innovation, and social transformation. If effectively harnessed, this demographic advantage can act as a critical component of holistic development for propelling India toward its vision of joining the galaxy of developed nation. The youth of India, equipped with education, skills development, and access to emerging technologies, can drive industries, entrepreneurship, and contribute significantly to both domestic and global economies. However, maximizing the potential of this demographic advantage requires investments in social sectors like education, skilling as per the demands of the market and developing world class healthcare services which would ensure that India's youth are not only a productive workforce but also agents of innovation and sustainable development.

The vision for Viksit Bharat@2047 though places significant emphasis on Socio-economic and inclusive development but it takes care that these developments do not take place at the cost of environmental degradation/sustainability.. Recognizing that innovation, entrepreneurship, and technological advancement are essential drivers of a thriving economy, India aims to capitalise these factors to become one of the dominant economic powers internationally so that it can provide leadership in ensuring justice and equity in the global economic policies. In order to achieve this objective India has been promoting strategic investments in the critical sectors like technology, infrastructure, manufacturing and alternative technologies for cleaner and renewable sources of energy. These sectors are not only crucial for economic growth but also for positioning India as a competitive player on the global stage. A central tenet of the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision is inclusive growth, which ensures that the benefits of economic progress are equitably shared across all segments of society. Bridging regional and social disparities will be a priority, ensuring that underprivileged/ marginalised sections of the society are given equal access to opportunities, resources, and



services. This inclusive approach will focus on creating pathways for marginalized groups, empowering them to contribute to and benefit from India's economic transformation. In addition, fostering a competitive business environment is key to realizing this vision. Moreover the government has been taking steps towards promoting and supporting the small and medium enterprises to act as a growth engine for the proposed vision of a developed economy. Furthermore, the government has been consistently trying for removing the obstacles in achieving the goal of ease of doing business so that it can stimulate entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation. These efforts will not only generate employment but will also uplift the standard of living for all citizens, ensuring that prosperity touches every individual, regardless of their background or location. Through these concerted efforts, Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to transform India into a society where economic progress and human development go hand in hand, creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

A core pillar of the vision for developed/ Vikshit Bharat is the pursuit of social progress, aiming to build a just, inclusive, and equitable society. The vision aspires to create a nation whereby social equality- uniform and equal opportunity to education for all and provision for quality healthcare for all- are not aspirational goals, but fundamental rights. Central to this effort is the empowerment of women, the upliftment of marginalized communities, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion across all sectors. Strengthening social security systems, providing affordable housing, and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation are vital steps toward reducing disparities and improving quality of life for all citizens. Moreover, the vision emphasizes skill development, vocational training, and entrepreneurial opportunities to enable every citizen to actively participate in and benefit from India's economic transformation. These initiatives not only contribute to individual empowerment but also drive community development and national resilience. In fact policies will be so designed that no one is likely to be left out from getting the due share of development. It would therefore try to dismantle historical barriers related to gender, caste, and socioeconomic status, creating a society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, contribute meaningfully, and share in the country's progress.

Sustainability being one of the key areas of development the blueprint for Vikshit Bharat has been emphatic and crystal clear about it. It clearly stipulates, therefore, that the aim of being a developed economy is not at the cost of ecological and environmental destruction/ degradation. The vision document and the roadmap clearly states that the core ethos of green technologies and environmental friendly industrial practices would be adopted so that carbon footprint is minimised to meet the norms of environmental sustainability. In order to achieve the compliance of this goal strict regulatory norms have been framed and pursued. Thus, it is crystal clear that such practices necessitate adoption of long lasting solutions for rising pollution, depletion of water table and managing the waste. The commitment to promote sustainable economy and responsible consumption has been the guiding principles for preserving natural resources for future generations, aligning economic and social development with long-term environmental resilience.

Another important policy initiative for achieving the goal of Vikshit Bharat lies in its unwavering commitment to promote innovation and sustainable technologies as catalysts for the development in the desired direction. This visionary goal is to be achieved through required investments in knowledge based economy which requires emphasis on research, development of emerging technologies and their integration into critical areas like artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology and digital transformation etc. The basic goal of this initiative is to use such technological innovations for addressing societal challenges and ensuring better productivity. Furthermore it aims at collaborative integration of government, academia and industry so that Vikshit Bharat is able to provide solutions not only to its own needs but global needs as well.

Another critical component for achieving the goal of Vikshit Bharat lies in pursuing rigorously the principles of good governance which is based on transparency, accountability and pro-people administration. It requires therefore a comprehensive overhaul of administrative systems which demands suitable changes in the structure as well as processes for speedy and efficient delivery public services. It requires tightening noose on the corrupt practices which can ensure responsive and pro-active performance by the bureaucracy. In fact the success of this vision document requires that the administrative machinery is able to manage the system in such a manner that ensures inclusion, accountability, transparency and people's participation.

In the era of globalisation it is necessary for aspirational economies to take care of international collaboration- bilateral as well as multilateral- to access development in knowledge systems, technology, skill enhancement techniques etc- to ensure one's national development and to contribute towards addressing global issues. Such an approach is essential to take advantage of ongoing research and development in different countries in critical areas like science and

technology, infrastructure, renewable energy and health care etc. Such interactive engagements provide opportunities to use international platforms to position India as a responsible actor in addressing the global challenges like climate change, public health crisis, cybersecurity and terrorism etc. In other words Indian initiatives towards forging international partnerships is based on the idea of Vikshit Bharat which believes in mutual advantage from shared global progress and stability.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The agenda of Vikshit Bharat is a comprehensive concept note with primary focus on accelerating the path of sustainable and inclusive development for achieving the goal of a developed nation. Historically speaking it is aligned with the post- colonial journey of development which has covered a long distance within its normative framework of growth with justice. Passing through different stages/ phases of development the idea of Vikshit Bharat enunciates that India has reached the stage of taking strides towards faster but sustainable and inclusive growth. Appreciating the fast changing economic and technological developments the vision of Vikshit Bharat has made it clear that India seeks to achieve its goal by adopting the best practices of administrative efficiency, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, initiating structural/ fundamental changes in the sectors concerned without sacrificing the critical concerns of climate change, transparency in governance and social justice. However, the success in achieving this goal would certainly depend upon the performance of the social-economic sectors on the one hand and commitment of administrators on the other. The way India has been pursuing its programmes and policies one can safely conclude that she is slowly but steadily moving in the desired direction.

### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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