

**Building Vikasit Bharat 2047:  
Governance, Institutions, And Citizen Empowerment**  
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**ABSTRACT:**

India’s aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047, which depends on the pillars of good governance, institutional effectiveness, and citizen empowerment. This paper explores the transformative role of governance reforms and digitalisation in strengthening state capacity, improving service delivery, and fostering inclusivity. Key initiatives such as Digital India, Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfers, PRAGATI, and the Aspirational Districts Programme highlight how technology-driven governance has enhanced transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Simultaneously, institutional reforms through measures like the Right to Information Act, e-Courts, Mission Karma yogi, and Ayushman Bharat underscore the government’s commitment to citizen-centric governance, social equity, and sustainable development. The study also examines the behavioural response of youth. India’s demographic dividend towards these reforms, reflecting their aspirations for transparency, innovation, and opportunities in a digital economy. By assessing the impact of these reforms on fiscal federalism, service delivery, and human development outcomes, the paper argues that strong governance and resilient institutions are indispensable for achieving the vision of Vikasit Bharat 2047.

**KEYWORDS:**

Governance Reforms, State Capacity, Institutional Effectiveness, Citizen Empowerment



**1. Introduction**

India, the world’s largest democracy, has envisioned becoming a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, the centenary of its independence. This aspiration goes beyond economic growth, aiming for inclusivity, equity, and sustainability, where every citizen enjoys a dignified quality of life (NITI Aayog, 2023). At the core of this vision lies good governance, defined by the United Nations as governance that is participatory, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective, equitable, and grounded in the rule of law (UNESCAP, 2009). In India’s context, good

governance has increasingly been framed around the concept of Ease of Living, reflecting the government's efforts to simplify processes, strengthen institutions, and improve service delivery for citizens (Government of India, 2020). Over the past two decades, India has acknowledged the limitations of traditional governance, often characterized by bureaucratic inefficiencies, delays, and lack of transparency. To overcome these challenges, the Government of India has adopted digitalisation as a cornerstone of governance reforms. The launch of the Digital India Mission (2015) marked a paradigm shift, aiming to provide digital infrastructure as a utility, deliver services on demand, and ensure digital empowerment of citizens (Meaty, 2015). This transformation has shifted the focus from a government-centric to a citizen-centric model, leveraging technology to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

Several reforms have demonstrated the tangible impact of this approach. For example, the Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system has been a game-changer, ensuring subsidies and welfare payments reach the intended beneficiaries while reducing leakages. As of 2023, Aadhaar authentication supports over 2,240 government schemes, strengthening efficiency and trust in welfare delivery (UIDAI, 2023). Similarly, the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) has digitized more than 95% of land records in rural India, reducing disputes, improving clarity of ownership, and facilitating easier access for citizens (Department of Land Resources, 2022). Platforms like my Scheme and Digi Locker further simplify governance by enabling citizens to discover eligible schemes or store official documents securely in digital form (Meaty, 2022).

Institutional innovations have also played a critical role in strengthening governance. The PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform facilitates real-time monitoring of projects worth over ₹18 lakh crore, enhancing accountability and efficiency in public administration (PMO India, 2023). Similarly, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in 2018, has leveraged data-driven governance and digital dashboards to accelerate development in 112 backward districts, making measurable progress in health, education, agriculture, and skill development (NITI Aayog, 2021). These reforms highlight how governance and digitalisation work hand in hand to promote inclusivity and equity.

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## 2. Review of Literature

G R, M., & Pujari, D. (2025) examine the rapid growth of India's digital economy as a major driver of economic expansion, employment, and technological advancement. According to the State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024, India ranks third globally in digitalisation and 12th among G20 nations in individual digital adoption. The digital economy contributed 11.74% of GDP (INR 31.64 lakh crore) in 2022–23 and employed 14.67 million workers, with productivity nearly five times higher than the rest of the economy. Key drivers include AI, cloud computing, digital platforms, and global capability centres (GCCs), with India hosting 55% of the world's GCCs. Sectoral adoption is uneven, with retail, BFSI, education, logistics, and hospitality integrating digital solutions at varying paces. The study highlights that a digitally empowered economy will be essential for achieving Viksit Bharat 2047, enhancing financial inclusion, governance efficiency, innovation-led growth, and employment opportunities, particularly for women and gig workers. Strengthening digital infrastructure, workforce upskilling, and inclusive digital participation are critical for positioning India as a global digital leader. Sharma & Rao (2024) analyse the role of governance reforms in strengthening India's state capacity and public service delivery. The study highlights initiatives such as Digital India, Mission Karma yogi, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as key reforms improving administrative efficiency, transparency, and fiscal capacity. Programs like PRAGATI and the Aspirational Districts Programme are shown to enhance monitoring, accountability, and outcomes in infrastructure and human development. The authors emphasise that institutional effectiveness through judicial digitisation, police modernisation, and empowerment of local governments is critical for inclusive development and achieving long-term goals like Vika sit Bharat 2047. Kumar & Mehta (2023) examine the impact of citizen-focused digital reforms on service delivery and social equity. Initiatives such as Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfers, my Scheme, and APAAR IDs in education have improved accessibility, reduced leakages, and empowered citizens across sectors. The study underscores the importance of integrating technology with participatory governance to ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. The authors argue that a digitally enabled governance

## 3. Objectives of Study

This study aims to examine how governance reforms and institutional effectiveness can drive India's journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047. It focuses on strengthening state capacity, enhancing public service delivery, and promoting citizen empowerment through digitalisation and initiatives like Digital India, PRAGATI, and Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfers. The study also explores institutional reforms in judiciary, policing, and local governance to build resilient, inclusive, and accountable institutions. The insights aim to provide actionable recommendations for achieving a developed, equitable, and sustainable nation.

#### **4. Governance Reforms and State Capacity for Viksit Bharat@2047**

The aspiration of Viksit Bharat@2047 places governance reforms and state capacity at the heart of India's developmental agenda. State capacity refers to the ability of the government not only to design sound policies but also to implement them effectively, equitably, and at scale (Besley & Persson, 2011). Historically, India has been successful in creating ambitious welfare programmes, yet weaknesses in administrative structures, inadequate fiscal capacity, and bottlenecks in service delivery have limited their impact (Kapur & Krishnamurthy, 2019). Strengthening state capacity is thus essential to ensure that the benefits of growth are widely shared and that governance becomes more responsive, transparent, and citizen-centric.

#### **5. Institutional Effectiveness for Viksit Bharat@2047**

Institutional effectiveness is a critical dimension of governance that ensures laws, regulations, and governance frameworks translate into real outcomes for citizens. It is not enough for a state to have well-designed policies; their success depends on effective institutions that promote accountability, reduce corruption, safeguard citizen rights, and maintain the rule of law (North, 1990). For India, building institutional effectiveness is vital to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, as strong institutions form the backbone of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.

The Government of India has undertaken several reforms to strengthen institutional effectiveness. The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 enhanced transparency and citizen participation, empowering people to hold public authorities accountable (Roberts, 2010). The Lokpal and Lookouts Act, 2013 created a statutory anti-corruption body, reflect-

ing efforts to improve integrity in governance (Bhattacharya, 2013). In the judiciary, initiatives such as the e-Courts Mission Mode Project have modernised case management and digitised judicial processes, aiming to reduce pendency and improve access to justice (Department of Justice, 2021).

Environmental and global governance commitments also illustrate institutional effectiveness. India's leadership in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and policies like the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) demonstrate institutional responsiveness to climate change and sustainability goals (MNRE, 2019). Together, these reforms highlight how institutional resilience and adaptability are central to balancing economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability.

## **6. Youths' Behaviours Towards Vikasit Bharat Reforms**

Indian youth, especially those between ages 14 to 35 are showing high awareness of and engagement with governance reforms and digitalisation efforts under the Vika sit Bharat vision. Surveys suggest that reforms like Digital India, Aadhaar-enabled services, JAM trinity, and data policy reforms are not just abstract policy ideas, but part of youth's lived experiences. For instance, an Observer Research Foundation (ORF) survey "Swiping Right on Tech Policy" found that 88% of young respondents believe they should have control over how their personal data are shared and used by government and social media platforms, and about 70% support data localisation (ORF, 2022). Youth overwhelmingly agree that digital innovations like UPI and Aadhaar have improved daily life (Basrur, Patil & Deo, 2025) and believe this policy reforms are essential to good governance.

Beyond attitudes, youth behaviours reflect increasing digital adoption and usage. The ASER 2023–2024 survey in rural India reveals that among youth aged 14–16, a large majority have smartphone access, many can carry out basic digital tasks, and internet connectivity is rising sharply (ASER, 2024). In rural youth aged 15–24, over 95% have access to a mobile phone, and 82.1% have an internet connection, which indicates how rapidly digital inclusion is expanding in previously underserved areas (Next IAS / ASER summary, 2024). This access is not purely for entertainment: many young people use online tools for information seeking,

education, accessing government services, finance via UPI, etc.

**Overall, youth behaviours thus reflect four broad patterns:**

- High awareness and support for digital governance reforms, data policies, Aadhaar/UPI etc., and belief in their role in improving governance and ease of living.
- Strong digital adoption especially among younger cohorts, rural youth catching up, use of smartphones, internet for services, financial transactions.
- Demand for responsibility, oversight, and ethics: youth care about privacy, data rights, regulation of technology as much as its benefits.
- Barriers and inequalities: digital literacy, gender, location (urban/rural), sociocultural factors still inhibit full realisation of reforms among some youth.

These behaviours matter for Vika sit Bharat@2047 because youth are both beneficiaries and drivers of reforms. Their attitudes affect uptake, legitimacy, and feedback loops which help refine reforms; their behaviours (e.g. using digital services, adopting UPI, applying for scheme benefits, participating in policy discussions) signal where state capacity and institutional effectiveness must improve.

**7. Impact of Reforms and Institutional Efforts for Viksit Bharat@2047**

The governance reforms and institutional strengthening undertaken by the Government of India in recent decades have had wide-ranging impacts on state capacity, inclusivity, and development outcomes. One of the most significant impacts has been in welfare delivery through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system linked to the Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM) trinity. This has reduced leakages, eliminated ghost beneficiaries, and ensured that subsidies and welfare benefits reach the intended recipients directly (Kapur, Mukhopadhyay, & Subramanian, 2008). As a result, citizen trust in public institutions has increased, while transparency and accountability have been reinforced (UIDAI, 2023).

Fiscal reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST, 2017) have streamlined indirect taxation, enhanced compliance, and created a unified national market, strengthening the fiscal capacity of both the Centre and states (Rao, 2019). Infrastructure planning and implementation have also improved through initiatives like the PM Gati Shakti National

Master Plan (2021), which integrates multiple ministries and departments on a digital platform to reduce project delays and improve coordination (NITI Aayog, 2022).

## 8. Conclusions and Policy Suggestions

India's journey toward Vika sit Bharat 2047 relies heavily on the integration of governance reforms, institutional effectiveness, and citizen empowerment. Initiatives such as Digital India, Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfers, PRAGATI, and the Aspirational Districts Programme have significantly strengthened state capacity, improved service delivery, and enhanced transparency and accountability. Institutional reforms, including the Right to Information Act, Mission Karma yogi, e-Courts, and Ayushman Bharat, have further reinforced inclusivity, social equity, and effective governance. The engagement of youth in these reforms underscores their critical role as both beneficiaries and contributors to a modern, participatory, and technology-driven governance ecosystem.

To accelerate the achievement of Vika sit Bharat 2047, several strategies are recommended. Strengthening state capacity through professionalisation of the bureaucracy, improved data-driven decision-making, and enhanced fiscal management is essential for outcome-oriented public expenditure. Institutional effectiveness can be improved by modernising the judiciary, reforming police and law enforcement for citizen-centric service, and empowering local governance through genuine decentralisation.

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The Authors have no conflict of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

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