

Viksit Bharat 2047: Pathways to a Developed, Inclusive and Sustainable India

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ABSTRACT:

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047—a developed India by the centenary of independence represents a multidimensional transformation of the nation’s social, economic, political, and cultural structures. It seeks to position India as a global leader rooted in its civilizational ethos and equipped with modern technology, inclusive growth, and sustainability. This paper analyses the conceptual foundations, historical trajectories, and policy frameworks that underpin this vision. It explores India’s journey from colonial exploitation to post-independence reconstruction and contemporary reforms. The discussion includes the role of education, governance, technology, and environmental sustainability as catalysts for holistic development. Using an analytical lens grounded in policy analysis and historical interpretation, the study identifies opportunities and challenges in realizing the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal. The paper concludes that achieving this vision requires an integrated approach combining traditional knowledge systems, digital transformation, equitable growth, and global cooperation.

KEYWORDS:

Viksit Bharat, Vision 2047, Indian Development, Sustainability, Governance, Education, Indian Knowledge System, Inclusive Growth.

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1. Introduction

The idea of Viksit Bharat 2047 is India’s national aspiration to transform itself into a fully developed nation by the year 2047—the centenary of independence.¹ This transformation encompasses economic strength, social equity, technological leadership, cultural pride, and environmental sustainability. The Viksit Bharat narrative aligns with the aspirations of Amrit Kaal (2022–2047) declared by the Government of India, marking the period for achieving self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) and human-centred progress.² The concept envisions India as a nation that is not only prosperous but also just, innovative, and spiritually rooted.

The paper situates Viksit Bharat 2047 within India’s historical

continuum—from the ancient civilization’s achievements in governance and education, through colonial subjugation, to the post-independence reconstruction. It employs an analytical framework combining historical, sociological, and policy perspectives to understand the structural pathways that could lead to a developed India.

2. The Concept and Objectives of Viksit Bharat

The Viksit Bharat 2047 framework, as articulated by NITI Aayog, is based on four interrelated pillars: economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and effective governance.³ The term Viksit denotes not merely material advancement but holistic human development inspired by Sarvodaya—the upliftment of all. The objective is to create a society where growth is measured not only in GDP terms but also in happiness, equality, and ecological balance.

Major objectives include doubling per-capita income, ensuring universal access to education and healthcare, achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and making India a global hub of innovation and production.⁴ The emphasis is on Atmanirbhar Bharat—a self-reliant economy integrating domestic capabilities with global competitiveness. The philosophy behind Viksit Bharat thus combines Dharma-based ethics with digital and industrial modernization.

3. Historical Context: India’s Civilizational Continuity

India’s developmental thought cannot be divorced from its civilizational past. Ancient India’s systems of learning, administration, and economy were characterized by decentralized governance, sustainable agriculture, and knowledge-centric communities.⁵ Texts such as the Arthashastra and Rigveda illustrate advanced statecraft, economic planning, and social ethics.⁶

However, colonial rule disrupted this continuity through resource extraction and socio-economic restructuring.⁷ The colonial economy converted India from a manufacturing exporter to a supplier of raw materials, leading to deindustrialization and poverty. The nationalist movement under leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi, and Pandit Nehru introduced developmental thinking that merged moral economy with modern science.⁸

4. Making of Modern India: Pre- and Post-Independence

4.1 Pre-Independence Modernity

The freedom struggle was not only political but also intellectual

and economic. Thinkers like Swami Vivekananda envisioned national regeneration through education, spirituality, and self-confidence. Gandhi's model of Gram Swaraj emphasized local economies and human dignity, while Nehru's scientific temper advocated industrial and technological modernization.⁹ These visions form the moral and institutional foundations of Viksit Bharat 2047.

4.2 Post-Independence Reconstruction

Post-1947, India adopted a mixed economy with state-led planning through the Five-Year Plans. The Green and White Revolutions ensured food and dairy security, while liberalization in 1991 opened global integration pathways.¹⁰ Today, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, and innovation-driven sectors form the backbone of developmental strategy. The ongoing initiatives such as Digital India, Skill India, and Startup India directly contribute to the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap.¹¹

5. Education and Knowledge Systems

Education remains the cornerstone of development. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 reimagines education as rooted in Indian ethos while being globally competitive.¹² It encourages critical thinking, multilingual learning, and vocational integration. The revival of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)—including philosophy, mathematics, Ayurveda, and environmental ethics—offers indigenous frameworks for sustainability.¹³

By 2047, India aims to achieve universal literacy, quality higher education, and global research excellence. The integration of digital tools such as AI and virtual laboratories can bridge regional disparities.¹⁴ Universities and research institutes must nurture innovation linked to societal challenges—energy, health, and sustainable urbanization.

6. Economic Growth and Innovation

India's economy has emerged as the world's fifth largest, with potential to become the third largest by 2030.¹⁵ The vision of Viksit Bharat calls for expanding the manufacturing base through Make in India 2.0, promoting MSMEs, and boosting exports.¹⁶ Structural transformation should focus on productivity enhancement, green technologies, and resilient supply chains.

Equally crucial is the growth of the service sector—especially IT, healthcare, tourism, and education exports.¹⁷ Innovation ecosystems—like Atal Innovation Mission, GIFT City, and semiconductor manufacturing—

symbolize India's technological leap. Economic inclusivity demands bridging rural-urban divides, empowering women entrepreneurs, and ensuring equitable access to financial systems.¹

7. Agriculture and Rural Transformation

Agriculture sustains nearly half of India's population and remains pivotal for rural prosperity. Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions modernization of agriculture through precision farming, AI-based crop management, and diversification into agro-processing and organic exports.¹⁹ Water management, climate-resilient crops, and farmer-producer organizations (FPOs) are essential to enhance productivity and incomes.²⁰

Initiatives like PM-KISAN, Soil Health Card, and Digital Agriculture Mission embody the blend of technology and welfare in the agricultural vision.²¹ Sustainable rural transformation must include agro-tourism, skill development, and infrastructure integration through PM Gati Shakti and Smart Villages.

8. Governance, Institutions, and Policy Innovation

Good governance forms the backbone of development. The Digital India Mission and e-governance initiatives have improved transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation.²² Mission Karmayogi promotes capacity building in the civil service, while Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) integration ensures financial inclusion.²³

Decentralization, cooperative federalism, and citizen-centric policymaking align with the Viksit Bharat principles. Institutional reforms—such as judicial digitization, electoral transparency, and performance-based budgeting—are crucial for accountable governance.²⁴

9. Sustainability and Environmental Balance

A developed India must also be a sustainable India. Climate action is integral to the Viksit Bharat 2047 strategy.²⁵ India's Panchamrit commitments announced at COP26 include achieving 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070.²⁶ Solar and green hydrogen missions, electric mobility, and circular economy models define the environmental pathway.

Indigenous ecological wisdom—from Vedic texts to Gandhian environmental ethics—complements modern science in achieving sustainability.²⁷ Protecting biodiversity, promoting urban greenery, and integrating sustainable consumption patterns will ensure long-term ecological harmony.

10. Social Inclusion and Cultural Harmony

Social equity and cultural pluralism are indispensable to a developed nation. Viksit Bharat aims for inclusive growth across caste, gender, region, and religion.²⁸ Policies for women empowerment, tribal welfare, and digital inclusion strengthen social cohesion.²⁹ Cultural heritage, arts, and languages form the soft power of India's global identity. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family—frames India's ethical leadership in global diplomacy.³⁰

11. Global Leadership and Diplomacy

India's growing influence in G20, BRICS, and the Indo-Pacific positions it as a voice for the Global South.³¹ Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions India as a knowledge and innovation hub contributing to global peace, climate solutions, and equitable trade.³² The success of initiatives like International Solar Alliance and One Earth One Future demonstrates India's proactive global vision

12. Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite progress, India faces structural challenges—inequality, unemployment, and institutional inertia.³³ Bridging skill gaps, improving data-driven policymaking, and strengthening healthcare infrastructure remain priorities.³⁴ Achieving the 2047 vision requires collaboration between government, academia, private sector, and civil society. The synergy of tradition and technology will define India's developmental distinctiveness.

13. Conclusion

The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision represents not merely a policy agenda but a moral and civilizational commitment. It seeks to harmonize economic progress with spiritual wisdom, sustainability, and equity. India's journey from a colonized nation to an emerging global power reflects resilience, innovation, and collective aspiration. By integrating ancient knowledge with modern science, India can pioneer a development model rooted in humanity and ecological balance.

Education reforms, digital transformation, and grassroots empowerment are fundamental for inclusive growth. Governance must remain transparent, participatory, and responsive to citizens' needs. Environmental sustainability should guide every policy—from urban planning to industrial strategy. Likewise, India's global engagement must reflect its philosophy of peace, cooperation, and universal welfare.

The realization of Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a whole-of-society

approach: ethical leadership in politics, creativity in academia, entrepreneurship in youth, and compassion in communities. As India approaches its centenary of independence, the dream of a developed nation stands within reach—if progress is measured not only in wealth but in wisdom, not merely in growth but in goodness.

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