



# Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Navigating Opportunities And Structural Challenges

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## Abstract

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 represents the Government of India's long-term national vision to transform the country into a developed nation by the centenary of its independence. Anchored in four interlinked pillars Yuva (youth), Garib (poor), Mahilayen (women), and Annadata (farmers) the vision emphasises inclusive growth, sustainable development, technological leadership, and good governance. India's favourable demographic profile, expanding digital public infrastructure, ongoing economic reforms, and accelerating green transition together create an unprecedented window of opportunity for structural transformation. At the same time, persistent poverty and inequality, human-capital deficits, environmental stress, and governance rigidities pose serious constraints.

This paper analyses Viksit Bharat @ 2047 through two complementary lenses: first, the opportunities arising from demographic, digital, economic, and ecological transitions; and second, the structural and institutional challenges that may impede progress. It advances the argument that the success of Viksit Bharat depends less on headline GDP targets and more on the effective translation of economic growth into expanded human capabilities, environmental resilience, and transparent, rule-based, and participatory governance. Achieving developed nation status by 2047, the paper contends, requires a simultaneous transformation of the economy, society, and the state.

**Keywords:** Viksit Bharat @ 2047; demographic dividend; digital public infrastructure; sustainable development; governance; social inclusion

## 1. Introduction

India's freedom struggle articulated not only the demand for political independence but also a moral claim to social justice, dignity, and economic self-reliance. The Constitution translated this vision into a republican promise of justice social, economic, and political for all citizens. Viksit Bharat @ 2047 represents the most recent attempt to operationalise these foundational commitments in the context of twenty-first-century opportunities and constraints.

As India approaches the centenary of Independence, policy documents envision a future marked by high income levels, near-elimination of extreme poverty, universal access to quality education and healthcare, and resilient physical and digital infrastructure. Achieving such an outcome, however, requires not only sustained economic growth but also deep structural transformation in productivity, institutions, and

social relations. The central challenge lies in reconciling rapid growth with meaningful social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Invoking the legacy of leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, and Subhas Chandra Bose, the vision of Viksit Bharat reframes national development through the contemporary language of demographic dividend, digital innovation, green growth, and good governance. Yet persistent poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and institutional inefficiencies continue to pose formidable obstacles.

Against this backdrop, this paper examines Viksit Bharat @ 2047 as both an economic blueprint and a socio-political project. It maps the opportunities created by demographic, technological, and green transitions; identifies structural constraints that may limit progress; and outlines governance-centric strategies required to align growth with inclusion and sustainability.

## 2. Vision and Pillars of Viksit Bharat @ 2047

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is conceived as a comprehensive national transformation agenda rather than a narrow growth strategy. Its core vision combines economic prosperity with social equity, environmental stewardship, and institutional integrity.

### Core Vision

At its centre is the aspiration to transform India into a developed economy with a projected GDP of USD 30–34 trillion by 2047, alongside a substantial reduction in multidimensional poverty. The broader objectives include universal access to education, healthcare, housing, water, and sanitation; resilient infrastructure; and governance institutions that are transparent, accountable, and rule-bound. Development is framed not merely as income growth, but as an expansion of capabilities and dignity.

### Four Foundational Pillars

The vision is anchored in four constituencies that represent both ethical priority and strategic necessity:

1. **Yuva (Youth):** With nearly two-thirds of its population in working age, India's developmental trajectory depends on how effectively its youth are educated, skilled, and productively employed.
2. **Garib (Poor):** Reducing vulnerability through social protection, livelihood security, and access to basic services remains central to inclusive development.
3. **Mahilayen (Women):** Gender equality is positioned as both a rights imperative and a growth strategy, with emphasis on education, labour-force participation, entrepreneurship, and leadership.
4. **Annadata (Farmers):** Enhancing farm incomes through sustainable agriculture, irrigation, storage, and market integration is essential for food security and rural prosperity.

Together, these pillars frame Viksit Bharat as a development project that insists growth must be inclusive, sustainable, and institutionally grounded.

## 3. Opportunities: India's Springboard to 2047

India's pathway to Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is shaped by a convergence of favourable structural and technological conditions.

### 3.1 Demographic Dividend

India's age structure offers a multi-decade window in which the working-age population significantly outnumbers dependants. Approximately 68 percent of the population lies between 15 and 64 years, and nearly one-fifth of the world's youth reside in India. If matched with investments in education, health, and skills, this demographic profile can boost productivity and growth.

However, without quality schooling, employable skills, and job creation, the demographic dividend could degenerate into widespread underemployment and social stress. Realising its potential therefore hinges on effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and large-scale skill development.

### 3.2 Digital Revolution and Innovation

India has emerged as a global leader in digital public infrastructure. Aadhaar has enabled biometric identification at scale, Jan Dhan accounts have expanded financial inclusion, and UPI has become the world's largest real-time digital payments ecosystem. Falling data costs and expanding connectivity have accelerated adoption across rural and urban areas.

These platforms have transformed service delivery, reduced leakages in welfare schemes, and strengthened state capacity. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G, and big-data analytics further expand opportunities in manufacturing, healthcare, education, and governance.

### 3.3 Economic Reforms and Global Integration

Structural reforms including GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and production-linked incentive schemes have improved macroeconomic resilience and the business environment. At the global level, supply-chain diversification and "China+1" strategies create opportunities for India to integrate into global value chains, particularly in manufacturing and services.

### 3.4 Green Growth and Energy Transition

India has made significant progress in renewable energy, with over half of installed power capacity now from non-fossil sources. Commitments under the "Panchamrit" framework position green growth as a core development strategy. If combined with just-transition policies and green-skills programmes, the energy transition can generate employment while enhancing energy security.

### 3.5 Participatory Governance

Digital platforms, direct benefit transfers, social audits, and community monitoring mechanisms illustrate the potential of participatory governance to improve accountability and service delivery. While uneven across states, these innovations demonstrate pathways for citizen-centric governance.

**4. Structural and Emerging Challenges:** Despite these opportunities, several obstacles threaten to dilute the Viksit Bharat vision.

#### 4.1 Persistent Poverty and Inequality

India has achieved substantial poverty reduction, yet regional, rural–urban, and social inequalities persist. Income poverty reduction has outpaced improvements in multidimensional deprivation, particularly in tribal and marginalised regions. A “two-speed” India risks undermining social mobility and inclusive growth.

#### 4.2 Human-Capital Deficits

While access to education has expanded, learning outcomes and employability remain weak. Skill mismatches and graduate unemployment threaten to turn the demographic dividend into a liability unless education quality and vocational training improve significantly.

#### 4.3 Health-System Constraints

Public health expenditure remains below national targets, constraining universal access to quality care. The growing burden of non-communicable diseases, mental health challenges, and environmental health risks further strains the system, with implications for productivity and equity.

#### 4.4 Environmental Stress and Climate Risk

Climate change poses a systemic risk to development through extreme weather, agricultural vulnerability, and urban stress. While mitigation efforts have advanced, adaptation and resilience investments remain inadequate.

#### 4.5 Governance and Institutional Rigidities

Corruption, judicial delays, and administrative inefficiencies continue to weaken state capacity and citizen trust. Although digital governance has improved transparency, institutional accountability and enforcement remain uneven.

### 5. Sectoral Strategies and Governance Imperatives

Achieving Viksit Bharat @ 2047 requires coordinated sectoral strategies enabled by strong institutions.

- a) **Education and Skills:** Focus on learning outcomes, industry-aligned skills, and flexible academic–vocational pathways.
- b) **Health and Nutrition:** Strengthen primary healthcare, preventive care, and nutrition convergence, with higher public investment.
- c) **Agriculture and Rural Transformation:** Promote climate-resilient farming, market integration, and rural non-farm employment.
- d) **Manufacturing, Services, and Infrastructure:** Support MSMEs, logistics, urban infrastructure, and employment-intensive growth.
- e) **Green Growth:** Accelerate renewables, electric mobility, green hydrogen, and just-transition policies.
- f) **Governance Reform:** Enhance transparency, accountability, decentralisation, and judicial efficiency.
- g) **Social Inclusion:** Prioritise women-led development, tribal and minority inclusion, urban migrant security, and youth participation.

## 6. Conclusion

Viksit Bharat @ 2047 signifies India's aspiration to translate political independence into substantive freedom, opportunity, and dignity for all. India enters this journey with notable strengths—demographic potential, digital infrastructure, reform momentum, and a green-growth agenda—but persistent inequality, human-capital deficits, climate vulnerability, and governance weaknesses threaten to dilute these gains.

This paper contends that achieving Viksit Bharat requires a simultaneous transformation of the economy, society, and the state. Economic growth must be productive and employment-intensive; social progress must be capability-enhancing and equitable; and governance must be transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric. With sustained political commitment, cooperative federalism, and broad societal participation, Viksit Bharat @ 2047 can evolve from aspiration into a resilient, inclusive, and democratic development pathway.

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