



Vision For Viksit Bharat @ 2047

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What is Viksit Bharat?

It is important to define what is Viksit Bharat. It is a Bharat which will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to 9 the high-income countries of the world today. It is a Bharat whose social, cultural, technological, and institutional features will mark it out as a developed nation with a rich heritage and one that is capable of functioning at the frontiers of knowledge. The World Bank defines high income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than US \$ 14,005 (in 2023). India has the potential and aims to be a high income country by the centenary of its independence in 2047.

However, being a developed nation a Viksit Bharat cannot be reduced to a single monetary attribute. It would have to signify a good quality of life for individuals and enable a society which is vibrant, culturally rich and harmonious. Some of the attributes of a **Viksit**

In a Viksit Bharat, the economy will

Be a leading global economy, a driver of global economic growth, a magnet of global talent, trade and capital. Its cities and markets will be among the largest and top-most business and financial centres of the world.

Have indian-origin Global Business Champions in manufacturing, services, agriculture, R&D and innovation with Indian firms working on the frontiers of innovation, technology and scale.

Have a vibrant rural economy with rural standards of living at par with urban areas and average rural incomes (both farm and non-farm) comparable with the per capita income of the country.



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Be an inclusive and democratic development role model for the world, a key member at global forums, and a catalyst for dialogue and peace.

In Viksit Bharat, the Society will be

Deeply rooted in its ancient culture and heritage with a globally celebrated civilization. Festivals, arts, spirituality and sports will be integral to its social life.

An environmentally conscious community, committed to global environmental obligations, maintaining a large forest cover and protected natural ecosystems.

Having a thriving family ecosystem anchored in a harmonious and cohesive social order.

Completely rid of absolute poverty with its citizens having a dignified and secure life. They will have adequate social safety nets with a sensitive policing and justice delivery system.

Introduction

India is at a turning point in its history. The 21st century can be India's century, as the country pole-vaults into the future confident of its capabilities. It is the 5TM largest economy in the world today and by most estimates will be the world's 3 largest economy by 2027 as its GDP crosses US\$ 5 trillion. By 2047, India is capable of becoming a US\$ 30 trillion economy with the quality of life of a developed nation. It will be a Viksit Bharat.

In 1947, we inherited a nation with a rich and ancient heritage but impoverished by colonization. A country which accounted for over a quarter of the world's GDP till the 17th century, was a pale shadow of its original self. While it still had the strength of its culture, traditions and heritage, the immediate task at hand was to handle the challenges of basic survival. This was the priority. For the first five to six decades after Independence, governments at all levels, be it at the Centre or in States, were focused on addressing the challenges of poverty, ignorance and disease.



Turning Points have catapulted others in the past

What we are setting out to is not unique or unprecedented. In the history of a nation, there comes a turningpoint, when it seizes the moment and achieves unprecedented rapid growth. The result is a complete transformation of the nation on multiple fronts, catapulting it to a leading status in the comity of the nations. This has been achieved by many other nations and should drive us to achieve the same transformation taking advantage of the current situation. Some nations which have catapulted themselves leveraging a turning point are:

- A. **Japan:** Post World War I, Japan underwent a remarkable transformation in the 1950s and 60s. It witnessed a period of rapid economic growth never seen before, often referred to as the 'Japanese Post-War Economic Miracle'. This journey propelled Japan into a leading world economy and established it as a global economic powerhouse.
- B. **Germany:** From being a war-ravaged economy, Germany's economic trajectory changed in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Also known as the Wirtschaftswunder or 'economic miracle', this period was characterized by rapid economic growth, industrialization, and rising living standards. Germany has since remained among the largest and most competitive economies globally, known for its strong manufacturing base and technological prowess.
- C. **Singapore:** From being an underdeveloped country, Singapore transformed itself in the 1960s and 70s, marking a shift from a predominantly entrepot economy to a rapidly industrializing and export-oriented one. Today, it is one of the richest nations in the world today and is one of Asia's' economic powerhouses which is heavily Industrialized and technologically sophisticated with world class infrastructure
- D. **South Korea:** From being a war-torn, agrarian and impoverished country in ruins, South Korea transformed its economy dramatically from the 1960s to 90s, a period referred to as the 'Miracle on the Han River'. Today, it is a high-income country that is home to world leading companies.

These are nations which knew the importance of a turning point and used that occasion to become economic giants. India too is at the cusp of such an opportunity which if seized and acted upon can transform the nation to become a Viksit Bharat.



Resurgent Bharat — India's Turning Point

In the last decade, India has already been transformed on many fronts. This transformation has been based on 6 foundational pillars:

- i) **Economic transformation through focused expansion of physical infrastructure and investment on human capital:** The last decade has witnessed a massive expansion in social and economic infrastructure through policies and schemes. The SamagraShikshaAbhiyan has strengthened the school education system in the country with nearly 29 crore students enrolled in schools. The number of universities, IITs, IIMs, Medical and Nursing colleges has increased manifold. Today, the Indian higher education system boasts 1,168 Universities, almost 45,500 Colleges, and over 12,000 stand-alone Institutions with 4.33 crore students. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased steadily to 28.4. In the last decade, a new [TI] was established every day, a new college opened every second day, one Atal Tinkering Lab opened every third day, a new University came up every week, and a new IIT and [IM] was setup every year across India. This has made India the second largest higher education ecosystem in the world.

Rural India too is transforming. We are close to achieving or have already achieved universal coverage in electricity, drinking water, bank accounts, roads, and mobile connectivity. The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) launched in 2018 enabled a massive expansion of socioeconomic wellbeing in India's hinterland and benefitted crores of people across 112 backward districts in just 5 years. Rural India is now starting to have many of the same benefits as urban India.

Building state-of-the-art infrastructure has been a government priority as reflected in higher public spending as well as policies s focused on ensuring adequate financing and 'monitoring of government targets' There has been a massive expansion of the Highway network to over 145,000 kms with Expressways also coming up. Railways have improved both capacity and introduction of new trains such as Vande Bharat that are speeding up travel with better quality of service. Air travel has expanded and is breaking records. India



is now the 3rd largest domestic aviation market and has witnessed 100% growth in airports from 74 airports in 2014 to 148 airports in 2023.

ii) **Deep social commitment with a focus on improving the lives of the poor:**

There has been a continuous focus on ensuring that the weakest and the poor are not left behind. This has enabled the nation to avoid famines and handle once-in-a century pandemics such as COVID. We have avoided distress for the poor through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and MNREGA while PMAY is providing housing for all. Saubhagya took electricity to every household while the Jal Jeevan Mission is bringing tap water to each house. Ujjwala has brought clean cooking gas to crores of kitchens, while Swachh Bharat brought better access to sanitation for all through toilets. All this has led to a steep decline in multi-dimensional poverty from 29.17% in 2013-14 to just 11.28% in 2022-23 with almost 25 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty.

iii) **Implementing deep and wide structural and institutional reforms:** The development programmes and widespread capital investments have been enabled by deep and wide ranging structural and institutional reforms. Regulatory reforms such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, reduction in over 40,000 compliances, repealing of over 1,500 archaic laws, and the transformative GST bringing in a single tax for the nation, have simplified the ecosystem for businesses to operate. Policy reforms have opened up newer areas such as Defence and Space to private sector participation and reduced the role of government in business decisions. Institutional reforms such as the creation of GeM have helped create new structures to handle emerging challenges. Process reforms such as Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) and improved Ease of Doing Business have saved government funds and improved business conditions. DBTs through Jan Dhan accounts, totalling up to RS 34 lakh crore, have translated into savings of Rs 2.7 lakh crore for the government and reached 29 crore beneficiaries across India.

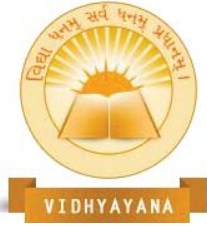
iv) **Using Digital and other technology to transform governance and service delivery:**

One of the defining characteristics of India's development journey has been the transformative use of technology digital technology in particular to deliver services to citizens. This has been driven by massive mobile phone and internet penetration. India



has 120 crore mobile phone users and 88 crores internet users. The Unified Payment Interface (UPI) with 30 crore users and 10 billion transactions per month is the largest in the world, accounting for over 46% of all global real time digital transactions. These are worth Rs 180 lakh crores annually. This was made possible by taking financial inclusion to the last mile using the Jan Dhan Aadhaar Mobile (JAM) Trinity to deliver financial services. What India achieved in financial inclusion in the last decade, would have taken half a century by traditional means. Today, over 2,000 government services at all levels are accessible online digitally. Our Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is the envy of the world with Aadhaar, UPI, AA (Account Aggregator) Stack, COWIN, GeM, and several other pioneering platforms created indigenously.

- v) **Pioneering innovation in science, technology, business and governance:** Innovation is India's strength which has been leveraged effectively. We 4 vi) are one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of COVID-19 and other vaccines. In the Global Innovation Index, we have jumped from the 81st rank in 2015 to the 40th rank now. Young India's creativity and potential for innovation coupled with supportive policies like Digital India and Startup India are enabling youth to become job creators. India is home to over 110 unicorns with a total valuation upwards of US\$ 340 billion. With over 1,17,000 registered startups, India has emerged as the world's 3rd largest startup ecosystem.
- vi) **Promoting peace and stability in the world as a VishwaBandhu:** On the global front, our social, cultural and linguistic legacy has its imprint in all corners of the world. India is the pioneer of Yoga and Ayurveda which are now spreading across the globe as pathways to achieve personal wellbeing. Mission LiFE is promoting sustainable lifestyles while we continue to pioneer international alliances in Biofuels, DPI, Solar Energy and Big Cat conservation. We are at the forefront in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief whenever needed as demonstrated through the Vaccine Maitri and several other evacuation efforts. India is truly a Vishwa Bandhu which aims for the wellbeing of the entire world.



India has Demonstrated Quantum Leap Capabilities

Through our collective efforts, we have demonstrated that we have the capability to seize the moment and transform India. Some impactful efforts that are proof of our “we can do” spirit include:

- a. **Sports** — Through concerted efforts of Khelo India, we are breaking past records and have crossed the 100 mark in medals in the Asian Games.
- b. **Jan Dhan accounts** — In a short period, we added 52.64 crore bank accounts with deposits over Rs 2.3 lakh crores, thereby ensuring financial inclusion, something people expected would take years.
- c. **COVID vaccines** — The COVID vaccination programme, run through the COWIN platform, with indigenous COVID-19 vaccines, was the world’s largest vaccination programme delivered efficiently to 200 crore recipients in just 2 years. This is a public health achievement without a parallel in human history.
- d. **Chandrayaan** — Becoming the first country to land on the South Pole of the moon demonstrated our excellence in science, breaking boundaries at a fraction of the cost incurred by developed countries. This has surprised 5 leading nations of the world and is an inspiration to developing countries for what can be efficiently achieved on a limited budget. India’s unique model of frugal innovation can be characterised as “affordable excellence” and is a beacon for the Global South.
- e. **Climate goals** — India is the only country which has overachieved its Paris 2015 climate commitments 9 years ahead of time by meeting 40% of its power capacity from non-fossil fuels. This has raised our global standing and reaffirmed our commitment to green growth.
- f. **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** — The DPI we set up has been expanded at a blinding speed, allowing India to be a world leader in digitization and financial payments. In just 7 years, monthly UPI transactions in India have increased 3,000-times, from 20 lakhs in 2016 to over 600 crores in 2023, thereby showcasing technology assimilation.
- g. **India’s Global standing** - India’s Presidency of the G20 last year saw the world respecting our diplomatic and organisational capabilities. We took G20 sessions to every corner of India with over 220 meetings in 60 cities in all our 28 States and 8 UTs. The unanimously adopted New



Delhi Leaders' Declaration was the first ever unanimous communique without dissenting footnotes in G20's history. With India's global standing rising, international institutions like the International So'ar Alliance are now being set up in India and international investors are coming to us in large numbers. In many cutting-edge areas, India is leading the world.

India's unique Advantages to become Viksit Bharat by 2047

India today stands at a unique inflexion point, where the 21st century is wellpoised to be India's century. India has an opportunity to not just develop but develop inclusively and equitably; not just develop for Indians, but develop for the entire world based on the ideal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

As India is geared to make a quantum leap towards becoming Viksit Bharat, it can leverage a robust socio-economic foundation and key structural advantages such as:

- i) **Demographic Dividend and Entrepreneurial Strength:** The most important advantage we have is our demographic dividend. With a population of 144 crores, India is one of the youngest nations with a median age of 29 years. Nearly 50% of our population is below the age of 25 years. We account for nearly 20% of the world's total young population. This is an enormous opportunity, likely to last till 2047. Using this dividend well, we can propel India into a Viksit Bharat. We are already a Talent Hub with the largest number of STEM graduates in the world - over 20 lakh every year, ~43% of whom are women. We also have the 3 biggest startup ecosystem in the world. Leveraged together and properly supported, our demography and enterprise, can propel our economic growth.
- ii) **Global Diaspora of Influence:** India has the world's largest diaspora nearly 3 crores spread across all continents. This diaspora is the source of the largest remittances (US\$ 111 billion) in the world where we lead every other nation. Indian origin CEOs are now ubiquitous across the MNC world. This diaspora is the source of our strength, and can be leveraged to generate investment, attract technology, and create knowledge for India.



- iii) **Cultural legacy and heritage:** As the birthplace of 4 religions, and home to over 750 languages and numerous folk arts, India is possibly among the most culturally diverse country in the world. Our impact and soft power are widely felt. Indian cinema is a major export not only for the entertainment of our diaspora but also for citizens of several countries. 'Yoga' and 'Ayurveda' are our gifts to humanity. and these increase the recognition of India as a brand.
- iv) **Geographical Endowments:** Uniquely located in the Indian Ocean, connecting the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia, India is positioned at the heart of global trade routes. With year-long sunlight availability, we can be a global solar power as well. Our agriculture spans multiple weather zones and crops. India can leverage geography and weather to be a major global player.

Internal Challenges to address

As India moves ahead on the road to development, a few structural challenges will also need to be addressed:

- i) **Upgrading capabilities in Manufacturing, Logistics and R&D** - If we are to be a developed nation, we need to have world class capabilities in all these areas. While we have demonstrated our capabilities in many areas, there is a need to raise the bar much higher in order to become a global leader.
- ii) **Achieving balance between energy 'Security', 'Access', 'Affordability', and 'Sustainability'** — This is going to be one of the most challenging areas to work in. We will need to secure our energy supplies as we are heavily import dependent. At the same time, our citizens need access to energy at affordable prices. Simultaneously, we need to tackle the challenge of environmental sustainability of energy consumption in the context of climate change.
- iii) **Improving the competitiveness of our Industry, particularly in logistics and in cost of power** — This is equally necessary for the transformation of our agricultural workforce into an industrial workforce and making India a global manufacturing and services hub.
- iv) **Bridging the gap between rural and urban incomes** and promoting balanced regional development.



Escaping the Middle-Income trap — The last but not the least of challenges is to avoid the middle-income trap. Studies have shown that barely a dozen middle-income countries have broken out to become develop high income countries in the last 70 years. Progressing from a middle-income to a high-income level requires sustained growth in the range of 7-10% for 20 - 30 years. Very few countries have managed to do this. The reasons have been well analyzed and include structural, institutional, and other socioeconomic factors. As a nation we need to avoid this trap and carefully work towards breaking out of it.

Need for a Vision

There is a great opportunity ahead of us in terms of our inherent strengths, global megatrends in our favour and the capabilities that we have demonstrated. We have largely resolved the problems of the last century of providing basic services, and have citizens now aspiring for a better quality of life. We therefore need to work to fulfil these aspirations by making India a developed country, a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

If we are to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, we need to have a vision which can take us there. The vision should lay down what a Viksit Bharat would be like and what measures we should collectively take to make that vision a reality. Having a vision will lay down our long-term ambition and the pathways to realise it. All actions that we take can then be aligned with this vision and ensure that we leverage our turning point like others have done to be a developed nation. The vision will act as a guide for all actions that we take in the short or medium term and keep us on the right track. Hence this is the right time to lay down a vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Process followed for developing a Vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

A vision for India cannot be the work of a few individuals or of one government. It has to be the result of the collective efforts of the entire nation. The roadmap of progress cannot be decided by the government alone, but by the nation. Keeping this in mind, a lot of preparatory work has been done to generate ideas for the vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047. There were wide scale consultations both within the government and with large pools of stakeholders. The visions of other countries and the data of other countries were examined so that we can



benchmark with the best in the world when it comes to outcomes and best practices and for enabling similar transformations.

At the national level, a consultative process, involving almost 15 lakh contributors, has led to the preparation of a template for a Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047. The stakeholders included states, industry bodies, public sector undertakings, universities, skilling bodies, think tanks, multilateral organisations, diaspora and NGOs. As the youth of today will be the builders of Viksit Bharat, a “Voice of Youth” campaign engaged 10.5 lakh youth in this consultative process, almost half (48%) of which were from women.

A Vision for Viksit Bharat @2047 will consist of concrete goals, with a strategy and a set of guiding principles to achieve those goals, and clear actions along certain themes to actually implement the strategy. All these put together would constitute a vision for Viksit Bharat@2047.

Conclusion

Viksit Bharat represents our collective vision to transform India into a developed country where each individual will live up to her/ his potential with meaningful lives and - livelihoods, and the entire society and economy will flourish. Viksit Bharat is envisioned to be built on the three pillars of ‘Demography, Democracy and Diversity’.

As India stands at this crucial juncture, poised to take off on its growth trajectory, it is important to realise that tremendous dedication and belief in India’s destiny is necessary to realise this potential. There is enormous work that needs to be undertaken in a mission mode to achieve the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. For this, there is a need to chalk out a bold, ambitious and transformative agenda. To not only assert our role as a global leader, but to also break new ground across sectors. To show the path to our peers in achieving economic success with ecological commitment, in balancing financial aspirations with an inclusive mindset, and in transcending the traditional frontiers of knowledge along with strengthening the roots of our ancient culture and civilizational values.



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Business as usual will not do. We must create the future. It is important to channelise our innovative ideas into actions. There must be a sense of purpose, dedication and steadiness to use the Amrit Kaal in building a nation that our freedom fighters envisaged and sacrificed for.

This has to be a collective endeavour of the Centre and States. Most of the actions in social sectors are to be done by States and a significant portion of capital investments too have to be done by States. We need to see that all States develop rapidly and also converge in their incomes and in the quality of life they are able to provide. We need to integrate all markets across the country, for goods, labour and capital.