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VIKSIT BHARAT 2047: A STRATEGIC VISION FOR INDIA'S INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bhupinder Singh¹ and Mangal Chhering²

¹College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi
singhbhupinder3@gmail.com

²College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi
mangalchheringdu@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The "Viksit Bharat 2047" initiative, championed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, outlines a transformative vision for India to become a fully developed nation by its centenary of independence in 2047. This research delves into the strategic framework of Viksit Bharat, focusing on its core pillars: Empowered Indians, a Thriving and Sustainable Economy, Innovation in Science and Technology, Good Governance, and India's Role in the Global Arena. The study emphasizes the necessity of inclusive economic participation, innovation, and human capital development as key drivers of this ambitious vision. By examining government policies, legislative frameworks, and strategic initiatives, the research highlights the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for India. These include addressing economic disparities, enhancing infrastructure, promoting sustainable practices, and ensuring transparent governance. The role of digital transformation, particularly under the Digital India initiative, is also explored as a catalyst for growth and inclusion. The research further underscores the importance of public-private collaboration in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. Through a comprehensive analysis, this study aims to provide a roadmap for policymakers, stakeholders, and scholars to navigate the complex landscape of India's development journey towards 2047.

KEYWORDS: Viksit Bharat 2047, Inclusive Economic Participation, Sustainable Development, Digital Transformation, Public-Private Collaboration.

INTRODUCTION

Viksit Bharat 2047' is the BJP's roadmap to making India a completely developed nation by 2047; 100 years after independence. Prime Minister Modi ji has stated that the core objective of the Viksit Bharat vision is to foster inclusive economic participation among all citizens (www.deccanherald.com). According to his own words "Today, every institution and every individual should move with a

resolution that every effort and act will be for Viksit Bharat. The aim of your goals, your resolutions should be only one – Developed India” (www.pmindia.gov.in). The plan is guiding the nation's transformative journey, with NITI Aayog serving as the guiding roadmap (<https://loksabhadocs.nic.in>). Minister for Education and Skill Development, Dharmendra Pradhan, emphasizes the role of innovation in driving Viksit Bharat's success, focusing on start-ups and human capital as pivotal forces in reshaping India's growth trajectory (Chhabra, 2024).

Meaning of Viksit Bharat: The term ‘Viksit Bharat’ means ‘Developed India’. Viksit Bharat 2047 represents the government’s vision to transform the country into a developed entity by its 100th independence in 2047. The four pillars of Viksit Bharat are Yuva (Youth), Garib (Poor), Mahila (Women) and Kisan (Farmers) (www.clear-tax.in). The vision of Viksit Bharat is that of a prosperous Bharat in harmony with modern infrastructure and nature and giving opportunities for all citizens of all regions to reach their potential (www.clear-tax.in).

There are 5 themes of Viksit Bharat, which are as follows:

1. Empowered Indians (Health, Education, Nari Shakti, Sports, Culture, Caring Society)
2. Thriving and Sustainable Economy (Industry, Energy, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Services, Green Economy, Cities)
3. Innovation, Science and Technology (Research and Development, Startups, Digital)
4. Good Governance and Security
5. India in the World (www.clear-tax.in)

Research Objective:

1. To promote innovation and human capital development through robust support for startups and continuous enhancement of educational and skill development initiatives.
2. To develop modern infrastructure and implement sustainable practices to support economic growth while harmonizing with environmental conservation goals.
3. To ensure transparent governance and inclusive social policies to empower marginalized communities, promote social development, and build a cohesive and caring society.

Research Methodology:

The methodology employed in the above research combines a comprehensive review of government policies, legislative frameworks, and strategic initiatives pertaining to India's development trajectory towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. Utilizing diverse sources such as government publications, academic articles, and reputable organizations' reports, the research synthesizes current trends and challenges across key thematic areas.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental Policies and Regulations: India has implemented a range of environmental policies and regulations to address its ecological challenges and promote sustainable development. The National Environment Policy (NEP) of 2006 provides a comprehensive framework aimed at ensuring the sustainability of natural resources while fostering economic growth. It emphasizes the integration of environmental considerations into all developmental processes and the enforcement of environmental standards (National Environment Policy., 2006). The Environmental Protection Act of 1986 serves as umbrella legislation, empowering the central government to protect and improve environmental quality. It includes measures for the control of pollution, the management of hazardous substances, and the conservation of natural resources (Kumar & Gautam, 2021) . Additionally, the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 are key legislative instruments for preserving India's forest cover and wildlife, respectively.

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Practices: India has made significant strides in promoting renewable energy and sustainable practices. The National Solar Mission, launched in 2010, aims to establish India as a global leader in solar energy. The mission's goal is to achieve 100 GW of solar power capacity by 2022, which is part of a broader target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity, including wind, biomass, and small hydro (Ministry of New and RenewableEnergy, 2015). Sustainable agricultural practices are also being encouraged through initiatives like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), which promotes organic farming and the use of traditional practices. This helps in reducing the dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, thereby preserving soil health and biodiversity (FarmersWelfare, 2019).

Furthermore, India is focusing on sustainable urbanization through programs like the Smart Cities Mission, which aims to develop sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure. The mission includes components such as waste management, water conservation, and energy-efficient buildings, contributing to the overall reduction of the urban carbon footprint (UrbanAffairs, 2017).

Climate Change Mitigation Efforts: India's climate change mitigation efforts are guided by its commitments under the Paris Agreement. The country has set ambitious targets to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from 2005 levels and to achieve 40% of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by the same year (International Solar Alliance., 2015). The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlines India's strategy to tackle climate change through eight national missions, including the National Solar Mission, the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, and the National Mission for a Green India. These missions focus on promoting renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing carbon sequestration through afforestation and reforestation (National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)., 2008).

Additionally, India has launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a collaborative platform aimed at increasing the deployment of solar energy and reducing the cost of solar power through cooperative efforts among member countries. This initiative underscores India's leadership role in global climate change mitigation efforts (ExternalAffairs, 2015).

Governance and Policy Framework

Governance Reforms and Transparency: By 2047, governance in India must undergo substantial reforms to align with the vision of Viksit Bharat. A transparent and accountable governance system is pivotal for fostering trust and ensuring efficient service delivery. Digital governance initiatives, such as e-governance platforms, can streamline administrative processes, reduce corruption, and enhance public access to information (Bertot, Jaeger, & Grimes, 2010). The implementation of blockchain technology in public records and transactions can further bolster transparency and security (Ølnes, Ubacht, & Janssen, 2017). Additionally, strengthening institutions such as the Lokpal and Lokayuktas will be crucial in combating corruption and promoting ethical governance (Morris & Klesner, 2010).

Policy Initiatives for Inclusive Growth: Policy initiatives aimed at inclusive growth are essential to ensure that the benefits of development reach all segments of society, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. The government should prioritize policies that promote equitable access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities (Nayyar, 2008). For instance, expanding the reach and quality of the Right to Education Act and the National Health Mission can significantly enhance human development indices (Dreze & Sen, 2013). Social protection schemes, like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), must be strengthened to provide a robust safety net for the poor and unemployed (Shankar & Gaiha, 2013). Furthermore, policies promoting entrepreneurship and skill development among women and youth can drive economic empowerment and social mobility (Klasen & Lamanna, 2009).

Role of Government and Private Sector: The collaborative effort between the government and the private sector will be a cornerstone of India's development strategy by 2047. The government must create an enabling environment through policy reforms, infrastructure development, and investment in human capital (Aghion & Howitt, 2006). Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be instrumental in addressing infrastructure deficits and delivering public services efficiently (Kwak, Chih, & Ibbs, 2009). The private sector, on its part, should embrace corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable business practices, contributing to social and environmental goals (Carroll & Shabana, 2010). Initiatives like the Make in India campaign should be expanded to encourage private investment in manufacturing and innovation, thereby generating employment and boosting economic growth (Mehra, 2015).

The synergy between the government and the private sector will be crucial in driving India towards

its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. By fostering a transparent governance system, implementing inclusive policies, and encouraging collaborative efforts, India can achieve sustainable and equitable growth, ensuring prosperity for all its citizens.

Technological Advancements

Digital India and Technological Innovations: The Digital India initiative has been a cornerstone of India's technological transformation, aiming to provide universal digital literacy and broadband connectivity across the country. Launched in 2015, this initiative seeks to empower citizens with digital tools and enhance government services through technology (Prasad, 2017). Innovations such as Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric identification system, have revolutionized public service delivery by reducing fraud and ensuring that benefits reach the intended recipients (Chaudhuri, 2018). Additionally, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has significantly increased financial inclusion and digital payment adoption, making transactions more efficient and secure (Bapat, 2020).

Impact of Technology on Development: Technological advancements have had a profound impact on India's socio-economic development. Access to technology has improved educational outcomes, with initiatives like the National Digital Library and e-learning platforms broadening access to quality education (Patra & Sahu, 2021). In healthcare, telemedicine and digital health records have enhanced the reach and efficiency of medical services, particularly in rural areas (Raghupathi & Raghupathi, 2014). Furthermore, technology has been a catalyst for economic growth, fostering innovation, creating jobs, and boosting productivity. The IT and software services industry, for example, has become a major contributor to GDP and employment (Heeks, 2018).

Future Prospects in Technological Integration: Looking ahead, the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and the Internet of Things (IoT) holds immense potential for India's future development. AI can revolutionize sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and education by providing predictive analytics, personalized services, and automation (Bresnick, 2017). The rollout of 5G technology is expected to further enhance connectivity and spur innovations in smart cities, autonomous vehicles, and industrial automation (Gupta & Jha, 2018). Moreover, the continued emphasis on digital literacy and skills development will ensure that the workforce is prepared to leverage these technologies effectively, driving sustained economic growth and social progress (Kumar V. , 2020).

International Relations and Global Standing

India's Role in the Global Economy: India has emerged as a pivotal player in the global economy, characterized by its rapid economic growth, large consumer market, and increasing influence in international trade. As the fifth-largest economy in the world, India's contributions to global GDP and its active participation in international forums like the G20 and BRICS underscore its economic

significance (World Bank. , 2021). India's robust IT and service sectors, coupled with its growing manufacturing base, have positioned it as a vital hub for global businesses and investments (Gopalan & Rajan, 2019).

Diplomatic Efforts and Strategic Partnerships: India's diplomatic efforts have been instrumental in enhancing its global standing. Through strategic partnerships and multilateral engagements, India has forged strong ties with major economies, including the United States, European Union, Japan, and Australia. The "Act East" policy exemplifies India's proactive approach to strengthening relationships with Southeast Asian countries, while initiatives like the International Solar Alliance highlight its leadership in addressing global challenges such as climate change (Mohan, 2020). Furthermore, India's active role in United Nations peacekeeping missions and its advocacy for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council reflect its commitment to global peace and security (Malone, 2014).

Comparative Analysis with Other Developing Nations: Compared to other developing nations, India's trajectory of development showcases a unique blend of economic growth and democratic governance. While countries like China have pursued state-driven economic models, India's growth has been characterized by a dynamic private sector and vibrant democratic institutions (Kumar & Singh, 2022). Despite challenges such as poverty and infrastructure deficits, India's diverse economy and demographic dividend offer significant potential for sustained growth and development (Bhattacharya & Mukherjee, 2018).

Future Roadmap

Looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, India's strategic vision focuses on achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Key areas of emphasis include technological innovation, human capital development, and environmental sustainability. India's ambitious goals under initiatives like "Make in India" and "Digital India" aim to transform it into a global manufacturing and digital powerhouse (Aayog., 2019).

Policy Recommendations

To realize this vision, policy recommendations include enhancing infrastructure, fostering innovation through research and development, and strengthening the education and healthcare sectors. Moreover, policies aimed at improving ease of doing business, reducing regulatory bottlenecks, and promoting entrepreneurship will be crucial for driving economic growth (CII, 2020).

Role of Stakeholders in Achieving Viksit Bharat

Achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" requires the active participation of all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, civil society, and international partners. The government's role in

creating a conducive policy environment, combined with the private sector's investment and innovation, will be pivotal. Additionally, civil society organizations can play a critical role in ensuring inclusive growth and addressing social inequalities (Singh, 2021). International partnerships and collaborations will further enhance India's capacity to tackle global challenges and leverage opportunities for growth.

Challenges and Opportunities

Economic Growth and Stability

Challenges: One of the major challenges India faces in its quest for sustained economic growth is the issue of income inequality. Despite significant economic advancements, income disparity remains a critical concern, with the wealth gap widening between urban and rural areas (Bhattacharya & Mukherjee, 2018). Additionally, the informal sector, which employs a large portion of the workforce, lacks adequate social security measures and formal job protections, posing risks to economic stability (Kumar & Singh, 2022).

Opportunities: India's demographic dividend presents a significant opportunity for economic growth. With a young and dynamic workforce, India has the potential to become a global manufacturing and services hub, provided it invests in skill development and education (CII, 2020). Initiatives like "Make in India" aim to boost manufacturing, while "Digital India" seeks to leverage technology for inclusive growth (Aayog., 2019).

Infrastructure Development

Challenges: Infrastructure deficits, particularly in transportation, energy, and urban planning, pose significant obstacles to India's development. Poor infrastructure can hamper productivity and increase operational costs for businesses, thereby affecting overall economic performance (Gopalan & Rajan, 2019). Additionally, rapid urbanization has led to challenges in housing, sanitation, and public transportation systems in major cities (World Bank. , 2021).

Opportunities: The government's focus on infrastructure development through initiatives such as the Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects, which aim to enhance road and port connectivity respectively, presents a tremendous opportunity for economic growth. Improved infrastructure can significantly boost trade, reduce logistics costs, and attract foreign direct investment (Aayog., 2019).

Technological Innovation and Digital Transformation

Challenges: While technological innovation offers immense potential, it also presents challenges such as digital divide and cybersecurity risks. Ensuring that technological advancements benefit all sections of society, particularly rural and marginalized communities, is crucial (Kumar & Singh, 2022). Moreover, the increasing reliance on digital infrastructure necessitates robust cybersecurity measures to protect against potential threats (Mohan, 2020).

Opportunities: India's strong IT sector and growing start-up ecosystem provide a fertile ground for technological innovations. Initiatives like "Digital India" are transforming governance, education, and healthcare, making them more accessible and efficient (Confederation of Indian Industry, 2020). Furthermore, advancements in fields such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and renewable energy hold significant promise for driving future growth (Gopalan & Rajan, 2019).

Social Development and Inclusion

Challenges: Social development challenges include addressing poverty, ensuring quality education, and providing healthcare to all citizens. Despite progress, significant sections of the population still lack access to essential services and opportunities, exacerbating social inequalities (Bhattacharya & Mukherjee, 2018). Gender disparity and the need for women's empowerment remain critical areas needing attention (Singh, 2021).

Opportunities: Policies aimed at inclusive growth, such as targeted welfare programs and social security schemes, can help bridge the gap between different socio-economic groups. Investing in healthcare and education, particularly in rural areas, will be vital for achieving inclusive development (Aayog., 2019). Empowering women through education, employment, and entrepreneurship initiatives can also significantly contribute to social and economic progress (CII, 2020).

Environmental Sustainability

Challenges: Environmental challenges, including pollution, deforestation, and climate change, pose significant risks to India's development. Rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to severe environmental degradation, impacting public health and biodiversity (Mohan, 2020).

Opportunities: India's commitment to renewable energy, as evidenced by its leadership in the International Solar Alliance, presents a significant opportunity to address environmental challenges. Policies promoting sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and green technologies can help

mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and ensure long-term sustainability (Gopalan & Rajan, 2019).

CONCLUSION

India's pursuit of becoming a developed nation by 2047 faces several challenges, including economic inequality, infrastructure deficits, technological gaps, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. To address these, India must adopt inclusive growth strategies to ensure equitable wealth distribution and harness its young population through education and skill development. Infrastructure development, particularly through projects like Bharatmala and Sagarmala, is crucial for boosting connectivity and attracting investments. Technological innovation and digital transformation, spearheaded by initiatives like "Digital India," can make governance, education, and healthcare more efficient. Social inclusion through targeted welfare programs, especially for marginalized communities, is vital for overall progress. Environmental sustainability, through renewable energy adoption and sustainable agricultural practices, is essential for mitigating climate change. Despite the challenges, India has significant opportunities. A strategic, inclusive approach involving the government, private sector, and civil society is key to realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047.

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