



Viksit Bharat 2047: One Nation, One Destiny

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Abstract

The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 represents India's ambitious roadmap to transform into a developed nation by the centenary of its independence. This research article examines the multifaceted dimensions of this national project, analysing the economic growth imperatives, sectoral transformation strategies, federal governance architecture, and sustainability frameworks that underpin the vision. Drawing upon official policy documents, expert analyses, and state-level vision documents, the article argues that Viksit Bharat is not merely an economic target but a comprehensive civilisational project that seeks to reconcile rapid development with environmental stewardship, cultural continuity, and social inclusion. The study finds that achieving the \$30 trillion economy target requires sustained 7-8% annual growth, with manufacturing needing to expand at 15% annually to reach 25% GDP share. Critically, the vision's success depends upon cooperative federalism, with states as primary drivers of development, and upon India's ability to mobilise unprecedented capital investments while pursuing net-zero commitments. The article concludes that Viksit Bharat 2047 offers a distinctive development paradigm—one that integrates economic transformation with climate responsibility and cultural renaissance—potentially serving as a model for the Global South.

Keywords: *Viksit Bharat 2047, Economic Transformation, Cooperative Federalism, Sustainable Development, Manufacturing Growth, Net Zero Transition, Indian Knowledge Systems*

1. Introduction

As India approaches the centenary of its independence in 2047, the nation finds itself at a historic crossroads. The vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047, articulated with increasing precision by policymakers, represents more than a collection of economic targets—it embodies a



civilisational aspiration to reclaim India's historical position as a global leader while ensuring that prosperity reaches every citizen. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi sir has repeatedly emphasised that this vision must penetrate to the grassroots level, reaching every district, block, and village, transforming the very fabric of Indian society.

The conceptualisation of a developed India by 2047 emerges from recognition that the twenty-first century will be defined by multipolarity, with Asia reclaiming its historical economic predominance. Within this rebalancing, India's demographic dividend, democratic institutions, and civilisational continuity position it uniquely among nations. Yet the path from a lower-middle-income economy to a developed nation—defined by the World Bank as a per capita income exceeding \$13,845—requires transformative changes across every sector of economy and society.

This article examines the Viksit Bharat vision through four analytical lenses: first, the economic growth architecture and sectorial transformation requirements; second, the federal governance framework that positions states as primary drivers of development; third, the sustainability imperative that seeks to reconcile growth with environmental stewardship; and fourth, the cultural and civilisational dimensions that distinguish India's development model from Western paradigms. The article draws upon official documents from NITI Aayog, state government vision statements, expert analyses, and academic research to construct a comprehensive understanding of this national project.

2. The Economic Architecture of Viksit Bharat

2.1 Growth Imperatives and Macroeconomic Foundations

The economic transformation envisioned under Viksit Bharat rests upon ambitious but achievable growth trajectories. Current estimates project India's GDP to reach approximately \$30 trillion by 2047, up from around \$4 trillion today. This expansion requires sustained nominal growth rates of 11-12%, translating to real growth of 7-8% annually over the next two decades. While ambitious, these rates are consistent with India's growth potential and the developmental experiences of East Asian economies during their high-growth phases.



Academic analysis confirms that achieving this growth trajectory requires disciplined fiscal management alongside expansionary investments. Research by Nikam and Kothe establishes that maintaining fiscal deficits below 3.5% of GDP is essential for macroeconomic stability, even as public investments in infrastructure, human capital, and technology must expand substantially. This fiscal balancing act demands significant improvements in tax buoyancy, expenditure rationalisation, and innovative financing mechanisms including public-private partnerships.

NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam has emphasised that India must "bump up our annual GDP by another 1% point to 7.5%" from its current trend rate of approximately 6.5%. This additional growth impetus must come from structural transformations rather than cyclical recoveries—fundamental shifts in how the economy produces, trades, and innovates.

2.2 Manufacturing: The Critical Sector

Among all economic sectors, manufacturing emerges as the critical battleground for Viksit Bharat. Currently contributing approximately 17% of GDP, manufacturing must grow at 15% annually to reach a 25% share by 2047, contributing \$7.5 trillion to the national economy. This expansion is essential not merely for GDP accounting but for employment generation, technological deepening, and integration into global value chains.

The manufacturing challenge encompasses multiple dimensions. First, India must address the "missing middle" problem—the predominance of micro-enterprises and large firms with insufficient medium-sized enterprises. As Prof. S. Mahendra Dev notes, "We must have many more middle-level manufacturing units with 200 to 500 workers," as firms remaining small lose access to institutional capital, skilled talent, and formal supply chains. Labour flexibility and sustained business reforms at the state level are critical to enabling this expansion.

Second, India must integrate itself into global value chains more deeply than ever before. Subrahmanyam observes that while China systematically positioned itself at the heart of



global value chains over three decades, India's integration remains limited: "We have not managed to crack it". Addressing this requires targeted industrial policy, infrastructure development, and trade agreements that facilitate India's emergence as a manufacturing hub rather than merely a market.

Third, regional concentration of manufacturing must be addressed. Currently, five to six states account for 90% of domestic and foreign investment in manufacturing. This geographical imbalance creates a "two-speed track" inconsistent with inclusive development. States such as Maharashtra have already articulated ambitious manufacturing targets—aiming to increase industrial GDP from \$123 billion to \$1,500 billion by 2047 through autonomous industrial townships and value chain integration across 24 high-priority sectors.

2.3 Services and the Digital Economy

While manufacturing receives substantial policy attention, services will remain the largest sector of the Indian economy, contributing approximately \$15 trillion by 2047 if growth targets are met. Maharashtra's vision document ambitiously targets increasing services GDP from \$312 billion to \$3,000 billion, with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region transformed into a \$600 billion global fintech hub. This vision reflects the reality that India's comparative advantage in digital services, information technology, and professional services will continue to drive growth.

The services-manufacturing complementarity requires careful policy navigation. As Prof. Dev argues, the "Services vs. manufacturing" debate is misplaced because "both manufacturing and services are needed as both are complementary". Manufacturing expansion stimulates demand for logistics, finance, design, and marketing services, while a vibrant services sector provides the enabling infrastructure for industrial competitiveness. India's development model must therefore pursue both sectors simultaneously, recognising their interdependence.



2.4 Agriculture and Rural Transformation

Agriculture presents both the greatest challenge and the most significant opportunity for Viksit Bharat. Currently employing 46% of the workforce while contributing approximately 16% of GDP, the sector suffers from low productivity and disguised unemployment. The transition of workers from agriculture to more productive sectors is essential for poverty reduction and overall economic growth.

Agricultural transformation under Viksit Bharat envisages diversification beyond traditional wheat-rice cropping patterns toward high-value horticulture, fisheries, livestock, and processed foods. Maharashtra's agricultural vision targets increasing agricultural GDP from \$55 billion to \$500 billion through integrated crop value chains, aquaculture expansion to 6 million metric tons, and 1,000 livestock development centers. This transformation requires sustained investment in research, extension, irrigation, and market infrastructure.

3. Cooperative Federalism: States as Architects of Viksit Bharat

3.1 The Federal Governance Framework

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the Viksit Bharat vision is its explicit recognition that national development must be built upon strong states. Prime Minister Modi has articulated this clearly: "The vision of a Viksit Bharat can be realized through developed states. The aspiration of a Viksit Bharat should reach the grassroots level i.e. every district, block, and village". This represents a fundamental shift from the top-down planning of the Five-Year Plan era to a collaborative federal framework.

NITI Aayog was established in 2015 precisely to institutionalise this cooperative federalism, evolving "a shared vision of national development priorities" with active state involvement. The Governing Council meetings of NITI Aayog have become platforms for aligning central and state priorities, with the objective of promoting "teamwork between the Center and the States in the form of 'Team India'".



3.2 State Vision Documents

A significant milestone in operationalising Viksit Bharat has been the preparation of state-level vision documents aligned with the national framework. By late 2025, 17 states had either completed or were near completing their vision documents, with all states expected to have roadmaps by the end of 2025. Maharashtra's vision document, cleared by the state cabinet in October 2025, exemplifies this approach with its three-phase structure: short-term targets for 2029, medium-term vision for Maharashtra@75 in 2035, and long-term vision for India@100 in 2047.

These state documents translate national aspirations into regional realities, accounting for diverse economic structures, demographic profiles, and development challenges. They represent recognition that "India is an aggregation of individual visions of small states" and that "you cannot have a national vision where states work in different directions".

3.3 Addressing Regional Inequalities

The federal framework must also address persistent regional inequalities. Prof. Dev's research on inter-regional disparities documents that while rich states grew faster during 2000-2020, human development indicators have converged, with poorer states catching up in life expectancy and infant mortality. The Finance Commission's horizontal distribution formula remains the primary instrument for addressing fiscal inequalities, but Dev argues that other institutions—including banking systems and investment promotion agencies—have historically favored developed states.

Achieving Viksit Bharat requires that "less developed states will catch up with developed states over time". This convergence depends upon targeted central assistance, investment in basic infrastructure, and the organic growth of economic activity as transport corridors and digital connectivity reduce the disadvantages of geographical peripherality.

4. Sustainability and Climate Responsibility

4.1 Balancing Growth and Environmental Stewardship

Viksit Bharat 2047 explicitly integrates environmental sustainability into its development paradigm. Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh has emphasised that



the vision encompasses "a future where development is not just about economic growth but also includes living in harmony with nature". This articulation distinguishes India's development model from the carbon-intensive pathways of currently industrialised nations.

India's climate achievements to date provide a foundation for this ambition. The emission intensity of GDP has reduced by 36 % between 2005 and 2020, with the country on track to meet a 45% reduction target by 2030. Non-fossil fuel sources now contribute 37.1% to total installed electricity generation capacity. These achievements embody the Panchamrit commitments announced at COP26—five nectar-like pledges including 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070.

4.2 The Net Zero Transition

NITI Aayog's comprehensive study on scenarios towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero, released in February 2026, provides the most detailed analysis yet of India's transition pathways. The study integrates economic growth projections with climate commitments through scenario-based modeling across ten inter-ministerial working groups covering power, transport, industry, buildings, agriculture, finance, critical minerals, research and development, and social implications.

Key findings include the recognition that "Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is achievable in all scenarios" while simultaneously pursuing net-zero goals. The transition strategy rests on four pillars: electrification of energy use, greening of electricity generation, demand management through Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), and enhanced circularity and efficiency.

A striking finding is that "India's coal consumption will continue to rise till 2047" even as energy intensity decreases and efficiency improves. This reflects India's development imperatives—ensuring affordable energy access for hundreds of millions while gradually transitioning to cleaner sources. The study estimates that 85% of India's 2047 infrastructure is yet to be built, creating a unique opportunity to construct climate-friendly systems from the outset rather than retrofitting later.



4.3 Financing the Green Transition

The financial requirements for sustainable development are substantial. NITI Aayog estimates that achieving net-zero by 2070 requires unprecedented capital mobilisation of \$22.7 trillion, with at least \$6.5 trillion needing to come from external sources. This financing gap underscores the importance of multilateral partnerships and global capital integration.

Multilateral financial institutions including the World Bank, IMF, and Asian Development Bank have critical roles in expanding India's fiscal space through concessional financing, technical cooperation, and risk-sharing mechanisms. However, domestic financial reforms are equally essential to mobilise savings and channel them toward sustainable infrastructure.

5. Cultural and Civilisational Dimensions

5.1 Indian Knowledge Systems

The Viksit Bharat vision extends beyond material prosperity to encompass cultural and civilisational rejuvenation. The National Conference on Indian Knowledge Systems for Viksit Bharat 2047, held in Chandigarh in April 2025, explored how traditional knowledge can inform sustainable development. Themes included "Panchamahabhuta-Inspired Urbanism" for climate-resilient cities, value-based education through the Bhagavad Gita, and restorative approaches to justice drawing upon Indian philosophical traditions.

This integration of indigenous knowledge with modern development represents a distinctive feature of India's approach. Rather than viewing development as a process of Westernisation, Viksit Bharat seeks to anchor progress in civilisational continuity, drawing upon ancient wisdom to address contemporary challenges. The concept of "living in harmony with nature," central to environmental policy, resonates deeply with traditional Indian attitudes toward the natural world.



5.2 Social Inclusion and Human Development

The vision of "One Nation, One Destiny" implies that development must reach all sections of society. Prof. Dev emphasises that Viksit Bharat encompasses three goals: "Economic growth, inclusion and sustainability with climate change resilience". Government programmes including Ayushman Bharat in health and educational quality initiatives aim to reduce inequalities in human development.

Women's empowerment emerges as a critical dimension. The Unity for Growth conference in July 2025 highlighted women's leadership as one of the pillars of the Viksit Bharat roadmap. Self-help groups, which have mobilised millions of rural women into economic activity, represent a model of grassroots wealth creation that democratises prosperity beyond the corporate sector.

5.3 Demographic Management

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi sir has encouraged states to launch Demographic Management Plans to address the challenges of an ageing population. While India currently benefits from a young population, the demographic dividend is time-limited. Preparing for the eventual transition to an older society requires investments in healthcare, pension systems, and age-friendly infrastructure.

6. Challenges and Critical Success Factors

6.1 Implementation Capacity

The most significant challenge facing Viksit Bharat is implementation capacity. Translating vision documents into on-ground results requires effective bureaucracy, capable local governments, and robust monitoring mechanisms. Maharashtra's establishment of a Vision Management Unit headed by the Chief Minister, tasked with ensuring that "the vision document will serve as the guide for all future policies", offers a model for institutionalising long-term planning.

6.2 Global Economic Environment

India's growth aspirations depend upon a favorable global economic environment. Protectionist trends, supply chain realignments, and climate-related trade barriers pose



risks to export-led growth. Subrahmanyam warns of "rising carbon-related trade barriers" that could disadvantage Indian exports. Navigating this environment requires agile trade policy and diversified export markets.

6.3 Technological Leapfrogging

India has opportunities to leapfrog intermediate technologies, particularly in clean energy and digital infrastructure. The NITI Aayog study concludes that "India can leapfrog to be a global leader in clean technologies". Realising this potential requires sustained investment in research and development, stronger university-industry linkages, and policies that encourage innovation adoption.

6.4 Social Cohesion

The "One Nation, One Destiny" framing presupposes social cohesion and shared purpose. In a diverse society characterised by multiple languages, religions, and regional identities, maintaining unity while respecting diversity is essential. The conference theme "Unity for Growth," grounded in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), reflects an understanding that collaboration rather than competition must characterise the national development effort.

7. Conclusion

Viksit Bharat 2047 represents an audacious yet achievable vision for India's transformation. The economic arithmetic—sustained 7-8% growth leading to a \$30 trillion economy—is demanding but consistent with historical precedents and India's demonstrated potential. However, the vision's true significance lies beyond economics, in its integration of development with sustainability, federalism with national purpose, and modernity with civilisational continuity.

The path to 2047 requires navigating multiple transitions simultaneously: structural transformation from agriculture to industry and services, energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables, demographic transition from youth to ageing, and political transition toward deeper federalism. Each transition presents challenges, but their simultaneous pursuit also creates synergies. Investments in green infrastructure create employment; digital connectivity enables service delivery in remote areas; state-led development tailors solutions to regional realities.



India's development model, as articulated through Viksit Bharat, offers distinctive features relevant to the Global South. By demonstrating that rapid growth can be reconciled with climate commitments, that federal democracy can deliver development, and that traditional knowledge can inform modern solutions, India may provide an alternative to the development paradigms inherited from the twentieth century.

The realisation of Viksit Bharat ultimately depends upon our Prime Minister Narendra Modi sir has termed "Sabka Prayas"—everyone's effort. Government policies and vision documents create the framework, but the content must be filled by entrepreneurs creating enterprises, farmers adopting new technologies, teachers shaping young minds, and citizens embracing sustainable lifestyles. One Nation, One Destiny is not a statement of inevitability but a call to collective action—a recognition that the India of 2047 will be built by the choices Indians make today.

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