



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

India's Journey Towards Developed Nation Status: An Analysis of Viksit Bharat 2047

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Abstract: As India approaches the completion of one hundred years of independence in 2047, the vision of Viksit Bharat, a 30 trillion-dollar goal has emerged as an important policy framework aimed at guiding the country toward developed-nation status. This study examines India's preparedness for this transition by analysing its current economic, social, and institutional conditions in relation to widely accepted development indicators. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from various websites, government publications, international reports, and existing academic literature. Key indicators considered include per capita income, human development, healthcare, education, infrastructure, governance, and environmental sustainability. The findings highlight India's progress in areas such as economic growth, digital expansion, infrastructure development, and social welfare initiatives during the Amrit Kaal period. However, the study also identifies persistent challenges, including income inequality, employment constraints, skill mismatches, regional disparities, environmental stress, and governance-related limitations.

Keywords - Amrit Kaal, Atmanirbhar Bharat, HDI, Make in India, NEP 2020, Per Capita GDP, Startup India, Viksit Bharat.

INTRODUCTION

India aims for Viksit Bharat 2047, transforming into a \$30 trillion economy with a \$26,000 per capita income has gained importance as a broad framework for India's long-term development strategy. This vision places equal emphasis on social inclusion, human development, quality of governance, 100% literacy rate across the nation, quality healthcare services accessible to every citizen, generating a substantial portion of energy from renewable sources to reduce pollution and building state-of-the-art infrastructure to support economic growth and connectivity. Achieving developed-nation status is therefore understood not only in terms of higher income levels but also through improvements in education, healthcare, infrastructure, institutional effectiveness, and overall living standards. India's development path reflects a mix of progress and persistent challenges. Although the country has recorded notable gains in economic growth, digitalization, infrastructure expansion, and social welfare programmes, concerns related to inequality, employment generation, regional imbalance, and environmental pressure continue to remain significant. Examining these aspects is essential to assess India's preparedness for becoming a developed nation. Accordingly, this study analyses India's current position, key policy initiatives, and major challenges in the context of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

LITERATURE REVIEW

N. Ritikumar Singh (2024) in his Research Paper “**Inclusive And Viksit Bharat 2047: A Proactive Strategy To A Better Future**” states that the world has seen a shift in development philosophy, emphasizing the importance of inclusive development for sustained social and economic progress. India's vision, 'Viksit Bharat 2047', aims to make the country inclusively developed by 2047, with a \$30-trillion economy for a projected 1.65 billion population. It includes economic growth, sustainable development goals, improved living and business conditions, enhanced infrastructure, and social welfare initiatives. Viksit Bharat 2047 prioritizes social welfare and inclusive growth, guaranteeing advantages for all. The government's commitment to advancing healthcare facilities, financial inclusion, gender parity, and sanitation is demonstrated by programs and projects including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Ayushman Bharat.

Neha Gajanan Kapse and Manish Pandit Chavan (2024) in his Research Paper “**Infrastructure Development Strategies for Viksit Bharat @2047**” highlights on Economic expansion, industrialization, social progress, technical innovation, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, and governance changes all depend on the development of infrastructure. To realize its Viksit Bharat vision, India needs to take a multi-sectoral approach that includes digitalization, renewable energy, and climate resilience. This covers international cooperation, public-private partnerships, and fair resource sharing. In order to promote fair growth, sustainable practices, and innovation-driven policy, the study emphasizes the significance of holistic development in the political, social, economic, and technological domains. For India to meet its targets by 2047, proactive governance, equitable resource allocation, and ongoing adaptability to new problems are crucial.

M.V.V Satyanarayana and Bandaru Vegeswara Rao (2024) in his Research Paper “**What is a Developed Country a Status India is Aiming to Achieve by 2047?**” India's post-independence economic path has been characterized by both successes and setbacks, including historical exploitation and problems with the economy, society, and environment. India's economy was revolutionized by the Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG) reforms of the 1990s, which promoted technical development and international market integration. But because to enduring problems including brain drain, population growth, wealth disparity, poor infrastructure, corruption, and environmental problems, India is still categorized as a developing nation. With the goal of making India a developed country by 2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi administration has put in place a number of comprehensive programs to advance the country's development. Infrastructure development, economic reforms, skill development, digital empowerment, financial inclusion, and sustainable practices are some of these tactics.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the key features of a developed nation and determine India's present economic and social development status using major indicators.
- To analyze India's opportunities during the Amrit Kaal period for achieving developed-nation status by 2047.
- To study the role of government policies and governance reforms in supporting national development.
- To identify the major challenges hindering India's transition to a developed nation.
- To emphasize the need for inclusive and sustainable development in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research paper is purely based on the available secondary data. Data is collected from various publications of the central government, state governments, various publications of foreign governments, international bodies and their subsidiary organizations, previous research paper, articles, magazines and the data available from authentic websites and published data available in open sources. The collected data have been analysed descriptively to examine India's developmental status, opportunities, and challenges in the context of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPED NATION STATUS?

A developed nation is defined by a highly advanced and diversified economy in which industrial and service sectors operate with strong technological support. The level of development is evaluated using both economic and social indicators, as income alone cannot fully reflect overall progress. Although high per capita income—often exceeding USD 25,000—indicates greater purchasing power and improved living standards, broader measures are required to assess development comprehensively. The **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a key indicator that combines income, education, and health dimensions to measure overall human well-being. According to **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** developed countries typically achieve HDI values above 0.80, reflecting higher life expectancy, low infant mortality rates, broad access to healthcare, and strong educational outcomes.

In Developed Nation, education and literacy play a central role in development, with literacy rates generally above 95 percent and well-established institutions of higher learning and research fostering innovation and skilled human capital. Developed economies rely heavily on advanced manufacturing, modern service industries, automation, and sustained investment in research and development, which drive productivity and technological advancement. Additionally, well-developed infrastructure—including efficient transportation systems, reliable electricity and water supply, modern housing, and digital connectivity—enhances productivity and quality of life. Stable labour markets, effective social security systems, environmental sustainability, political stability, and transparent governance further support long-term economic growth, social equity, and overall national well-being.

INDIA PRESENT POSITIONS

India's present economic status reflects that it has achieved notable progress but continues to lag behind developed economies on key indicators. Despite India being the Third-largest economy by **Purchasing Power Parity (\$19trillion approx.)** and Fourth-largest economy in terms of **nominal GDP (\$4.18 trillion)**. India's Per capita GDP is estimated around **USD 2,600–3100**, significantly below the levels typical of developed countries, India's large population continues to constrain average income and living standards. As per recent studies India is forecasted to achieve world second largest economy in 2075 and per capita GDP (USD) will be 26,000 dollars in 2047. This is illustrated in image shown below:

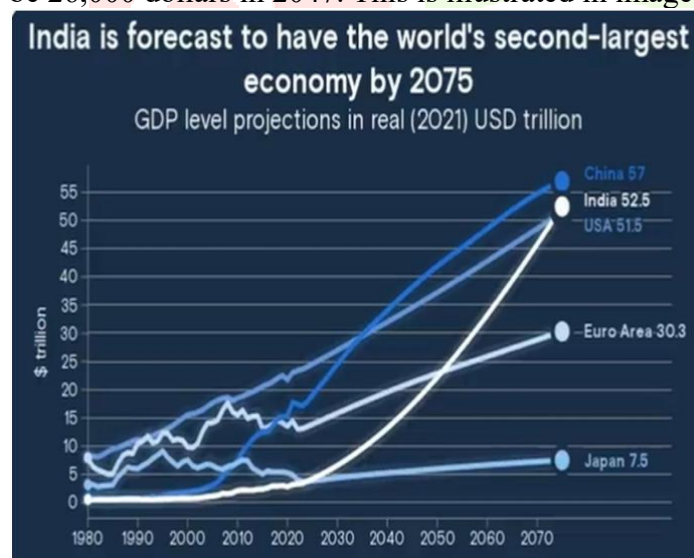


Image Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/>
(Investment Bank Goldman Sachs)

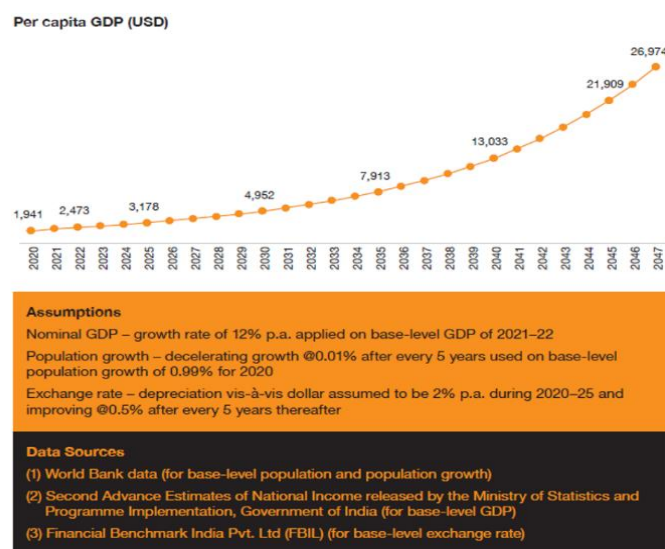


Image Source: <https://www.pwc.in/>

India's Human Development Index stands at approximately 0.685, placing it in the medium human development category and below the standards of advanced economies. Our Healthcare indicators have improved, with **life expectancy** rising to about 72.5 years and **infant mortality** declining to nearly 25 per 1,000 live births; however, **healthcare spending** remains low at around 2% of GDP. Educational outcomes show gradual improvement, with a **literacy rate** of about 77.7%, though issues of quality, access, and skill mismatch persist. While India has developed competitive sectors in technology, pharmaceuticals, and space research, investment in research and development (1% of GDP) remains limited, and manufacturing continues to contribute modestly to GDP.

India has recorded significant improvements in physical and digital infrastructure, particularly in road development. Now, we have **second largest** road network in the world building roads at a record pace of 34 km per day. Household electricity accessibility rates recorded at roughly 99.5 % of the population, digital payment systems like Unified Payment System (UPI) handles 640+ millions transaction daily and internet connectivity have crossed the **100 crore** milestone internet connection in country. Despite this progress, regional disparities in infrastructure quality persist, especially in rural and economically backward areas. Although extreme poverty has declined, employment challenges remain evident, with unemployment rates hovering around 7–8 per cent and a substantial proportion of the workforce engaged in informal employment. Government welfare initiatives have expanded social support coverage; however, a comprehensive social security framework comparable to that of developed economies remains absent. Presently, India is the world's **third largest** consumer of electricity and the world's **fourth largest** renewable energy producer, yet environmental issues such as pollution and resource stress continue to pose serious challenges. While democratic institutions and constitutional governance provide stability, administrative challenges and uneven policy implementation continue to constrain development outcomes.

INDIA OPPORTUNITIES AND ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES & REFORMS

India's *Amrit Kaal* (2022-2047) represents a phase of structural transformation aimed at long-term economic and social advancement. Recent efforts have focused on strengthening education and skill development through institutional expansion and policy reforms. The **National Education Policy 2020** supports the vision of *Viksit Bharat* by promoting flexible, multidisciplinary learning and early educational foundations. It integrates vocational skills with academics and encourages the use of digital tools to improve learning outcomes. The policy also emphasizes inclusion and regional diversity to ensure balanced progress. Together, these reforms are enhancing human capital, improving employability, and laying the foundation for a skilled and competitive India capable of achieving developed nation status by 2047.

The **PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission** and the **Digital Health Mission** have significantly strengthened India's public healthcare system and digital health connectivity through the expansion of health facilities and the creation of millions of digital health records. Programmes such as e-Sanjeevani OPD and the **PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana** have improved access to affordable healthcare services and essential medicines, particularly for underserved populations. In addition, initiatives like **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan** and improvements in child health and nutrition through **Mission Indradhanush**, are contributing to the development of a more comprehensive and sustainable healthcare ecosystem in India. The healthcare sector has strengthened considerably with the expansion of Ayushman Bharat centres and a wide Anganwadi network supporting early childhood care and nutrition. Improvements are evident in key health indicators, including reductions in infant and maternal mortality and higher immunisation coverage under **Mission Indradhanush**. Rural India has also witnessed notable progress in access to electricity, drinking water, banking, housing, transport, and digital connectivity, supported by welfare schemes such as **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**, **MNREGA**, and **PM Awas Yojana**.

Rapid growth in digital infrastructure, transport networks, science and technology, and Digital Public Infrastructure has further accelerated development. The **UDAN** (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme has also made air travel affordable for the common public. India has emerged as a global leader in digital payments, space technology, startups, and services, while steadily advancing towards becoming a manufacturing hub. Importantly, India's large and youthful population constitutes a significant demographic dividend which, if effectively utilized, can play a crucial role in achieving the objective of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

The **Make in India** initiative is a flagship programme of the Government of India aimed at strengthening the manufacturing sector through increased investment, innovation, and skill development. Implemented by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, the initiative was launched in 2014 by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to promote manufacturing-led economic growth. Policy reforms under the programme improved **India's ease-of-doing-business** performance, with its global ranking rising from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020. The initiative has attracted higher foreign investment and supported industrial expansion across priority sectors under Make in India 2.0. Overall, it has contributed to employment generation, skill enhancement, and improved global competitiveness of Indian manufacturing. According to latest reports, India has become the **second** largest mobile manufacturing country globally and electronics

production has increased six-fold, with exports rising eightfold over the last eleven years, significantly aided by the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme**.

India's economic progress has been reinforced by reforms aimed at market integration and improved business conditions. The introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax** created a unified domestic market, while digital systems such as Aadhaar-linked benefit transfers and the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** modernised financial transactions. Programmes including **PM MUDRA Yojana** for providing loans up to 20 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises, **Startup India** to build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India, and the **Jan Dhan Yojana** is ensuring access to various financial services like availability of basic savings bank account, access to need based credit, remittances facility, insurance and pension to the excluded sections i.e. weaker sections & low income groups initiative have widened access to finance, strengthened micro and small enterprises, and supported job creation. At the same time, the business environment has improved through regulatory streamlining, reduction of compliance burdens, selective decriminalisation of corporate provisions, and lower corporate tax rates. Additional policy instruments, such as production-linked incentives and a single-window clearance mechanism, have accelerated investment, manufacturing growth, and overall economic activity.

India's defence manufacturing sector is undergoing a significant transformation from import dependence to self-reliance, aligning closely with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Supported by initiatives such as **Aatmanirbharat Bharat, Make in India**, and the **Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020**, the sector has strengthened domestic production, expanded private sector participation, and promoted indigenization. The establishment of Defence Industrial Corridors and liberalized FDI norms has enhanced investment and infrastructure development. Integration of advanced technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, has improved operational efficiency and innovation in defence systems. Rising defence production and exports highlight the sector's growing economic and strategic importance, positioning it as a key contributor to national security, technological advancement, employment generation, and India's emergence as a globally competitive and self-reliant nation by 2047.

India's recent governance outcomes illustrate its growing capacity for large-scale and effective implementation. Targeted investment under **Khelo India** has translated into historic sporting achievements, while financial inclusion expanded rapidly through Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, integrating over 56 crore citizens into formal banking. During the pandemic, India's vaccination drive administered nearly 200 crore doses via the **CoWIN** system and indigenous vaccines, complemented by global outreach through Vaccine Maitri. Scientific capability was reinforced by **Chandrayaan-3**, while early achievement of climate targets under the Paris Agreement and leadership during the India's G20 presidency in 2023, under the theme "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" (One Earth, One Family, One Future), is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the nation's diplomatic history further reflect outcome-oriented governance.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite India's ambitious vision of attaining developed-nation status by 2047, the path toward Viksit Bharat is marked by several structural and systemic challenges. Economically, persistent income inequality, regional disparities, and the rural–urban divide continue to constrain inclusive growth. Government should implement tax policies that decrease the tax burden on lower-income groups and place higher tax burden on rich people to reduce income inequality and this collected income should be used for development of under developed & lower-income groups people. To promote regional prosperity and rural-urban developmental area government should prioritize investment in under developed areas.

Sustaining high and stable economic growth over the long term remains critical, particularly in the context of the potential middle-income trap. Employment generation poses a significant concern, as the expanding workforce—especially the youth—faces limited access to productive and formal employment opportunities. This challenge is compounded by gaps in education quality and a mismatch between skill development initiatives and industry requirements. This problem will be solved by promoting MSMEs, Startup and entrepreneur. Also investing in infrastructure, research & development, technology and supporting employment oriented growth will generate quality employment and helps in sustaining high stable economic growth.

Social challenges further impede progress, including unequal access to quality education, healthcare, and nutrition, along with entrenched gender inequality and social discrimination. Rapid urbanization has intensified pressure on infrastructure, housing, and essential services, while rural areas continue to face developmental deficits. This can be resolved by providing equal access to quality education to all groups of people and especially focusing on rural areas to promote uniform growth across the nation. Proper infrastructure and planning including transportation, communication, and urban facilities to provide sufficient necessity is required for Viksit Bharat.

Environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, resource depletion, and water scarcity threaten the sustainability of economic growth. Additionally, some constraints including bureaucracy challenges, corruption, policy uncertainty, and dependence on foreign technology—limit effective policy implementation. Addressing these multidimensional challenges requires implementing sustainable practices and preserving natural resources for a cleaner and healthier environment, institutional reforms, coordinated policy efforts, and active participation from government, industry, civil society and most importantly from common people to ensure balanced and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

The goal of achieving *Viksit Bharat 2047* reflects India's determination to transform itself into a developed, inclusive, and self-reliant nation by the completion of 100 years of independence. The analysis indicates that India has made meaningful progress in areas such as economic growth, infrastructure development, digital expansion, social welfare coverage, and institutional reforms. At the same time, challenges related to income inequality, employment creation, skill development, environmental sustainability, regional imbalance, and governance efficiency continue to slow the pace of transformation.

The vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* extends beyond a policy framework and reflects a long-term national aspiration. This Study suggest that to become a Developed India requires more than rapid economic expansion; it demands sustained improvements in human development, environmental responsibility, rural-urban developmental equality, employment-oriented growth, quality infrastructure, ensuring gender equality in education & employment, funding in healthcare, education, research & development and administrative effectiveness. India's demographic potential, reform-driven policies, and expanding technological capacity provide a strong foundation for future progress. With consistent policy implementation, inclusive growth strategies, and active participation from all stakeholders, India can move steadily toward realizing the vision of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

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