



Viksit Bharat 2047 : A New Developmental Paradigm for India

Dr. Rajrupa Mitra

Associate Professor

Department of Economics

Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, West Bengal,

Abstract: Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vision to transform India into a developed, self-reliant and prosperous economy by 2047, the year marking 100 years of India's independence. The priority of India's development strategy as emphasized by Viksit Bharat mission is on inclusive development and social welfare. Propelling India into a developed nation involves chalking out a novel and comprehensive plan with felicitous agenda. This article focuses on the priority areas of Viksit Bharat, government's initiatives towards its attainment and the underlying policy implications.

Key words: Inclusive, Sustainable, Empowerment, Vision, Gender Equality.

THE VISION :

Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vision to transform India into a developed, self-reliant and prosperous economy by 2047, the year marking 100 years of India's independence. India envisages attainment of inclusive growth and sustainable development encompassing the four pillars, namely: *Yuva* (Youth), *Garib* (Poor or underprivileged), *Mahilayen* (Women), and *Annadata* (Farmers). Some critical aspects of the vision are economic growth, technological upgradation, infrastructure development, social empowerment and sustainability. India's trajectory of development is expected to undergo metamorphosis with a plethora of anticipated changes in all spheres of the economy. Needless to say, propelling India into a developed nation involves chalking out a novel and comprehensive plan with felicitous agenda.

OBJECTIVE AND PRIORITY AREAS:

According to Niti Aayog, India is the 4th largest economy in the world today. Further, it is predicted that India will be the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027. The objectives have been prioritized accordingly. The targets laid down under Viksit Bharat are in tune with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. They are as varied and diverse as economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability and effective governance. Government seeks to align the state-level visions with the national vision so as to transform India into a more prosperous and developed nation by 2047. This vision explicitly recognizes the potential of the youth in leading India towards its mission.

Viksit Bharat seeks to:

- Elevate Indian economy to the third largest in the world worth \$30-trillion, a low poverty rate, a high score in human development index and a strong infrastructural and industrial base.
- Create an inclusive and equitable society with basic amenities like permanent and durable house, clean, piped water, health care and quality education.
- Promote skill development and vocational training, gender equality, social justice and cultural diversity.
- Protect the environment and ensure a resilient ecosystem targeting net zero emission by 2070, a 50 percent share of renewable energy in the total energy mix, a low carbon intensity and increase in forest cover.
- Ensure a vibrant democratic set up comprising a participatory and transparent governance liberal federalism and responsive public support systems.

INDIA'S MOVE TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT:

The priority of India's development strategy as emphasized by Viksit Bharat mission is on inclusive development and social welfare. The government is committed to enhancing all-round development with focus on healthcare, financial inclusion, gender parity and sanitation. Government initiatives and targeted approaches towards attainment of the different goals may be outlined as follows.

✚ Zero Poverty:

The government aims at attainment of Zero Poverty by empowering underprivileged and marginalized communities economically. Jan Dhan Yojana provides easy access to banking enabling financial inclusion. With around 80 crore beneficiaries of food security schemes problems of starvation and hunger have been reduced significantly. Protecting the rights of weaker sections and empowering persons with disabilities through various support mechanisms have been emphasized. Provision of basic amenities in tribal areas have been prioritized so as to improve their quality of life.

✚ Farmers' Welfare

In view of the target of making India the "food basket of the world", welfare schemes for farmers have been launched. PM KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Soil Health Cards protect farmers against crop loss risks and ensure their financial security. PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and agricultural infrastructure development with a Rs.1 lakh crore funding facility help farmers undertake irrigation facilities. The PM-PRANAM scheme encourages organic farming and sustainable fertiliser use in tune with sustainable agricultural practices. Besides, Kisan Credit Cards, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and the SVAMITVA scheme benefit them by facilitating their access to better resources, credit availability and validation of their land titles.

✚ Education

Quality education is a major driver of economic growth and has been emphasized accordingly. Nishtha (for improving quality of school education) Vidyanjali Mentoring (strengthening schools by community and private sector involvement) and Nipun Bharat (for enhancing foundational literacy) are some important schemes in this direction. PM SHRI scheme has been launched to improve the quality of education and infrastructure in schools. Skill India Mission and PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana foster skill development through training programmes while industry-specific SAMARTH Udyog focus on enhancing skills within textile industry. Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools to provide students with hands-on access to tools and technologies. Setting up of National Sports University in Manipur is a milestone achievement in extra-curricular development. With regard to higher education, new IITs, IIMs, Medical and Nursing Colleges have been set up. IIT campuses have been set up in Zanzibar and Abu Dhabi through Fund of Funds and Start Up India Fund Scheme to promote academic excellence.

✚ Economic Development

Government has undertaken various initiatives to ensure basic amenities and a decent standard of living for the people. Under PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) 2.5 crore affordable houses have been provided. SBM Gramin, aiming at promotion of sanitation and hygiene, has undertaken large-scale toilet construction and women-led waste management. In urban areas AMRUT scheme ensures water and sewer connections while Har Ghar Jal supplies tap water in rural households. Targeting universal coverage in electricity, drinking water, bank accounts, roads and mobile connectivity shows that rural India is under the process of transformation and efforts are underway to bridge the gap between rural and urban India. Rozgar Mela is organized for enhancing employment opportunities across India.

✚ Healthcare

The public healthcare sector is being strengthened by PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission coupled with Digital Mission. Ayushman Bharat makes use of technology to create a digital health infrastructure enabling easy access to healthcare services. PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana provides quality generic medicines at affordable prices while e-Sanjeevani OPD facilitates quick and easy online access to doctors and medical specialists. Moreover, schemes like Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and Child Health and Nutrition Mission Indradhanush are effective steps towards implementation of a sustainable healthcare system.

✚ Defence

The country strives for a sound and robust defence mechanism. Light Combat Helicopters have been introduced which are indigenously developed. Agnipath scheme recruits young individuals in armed forces which modernises the armed forces with young, high-tech soldiers. Surgical strikes to counter terrorism have been successfully executed.

✚ Promoting Business

Digital initiatives like Aadhaar-DBT and UPI have revolutionised payment systems. Schemes like the PM MUDRA, Startup India and PM Jan Dhan Yojana promote financial inclusion. Steps have been taken to facilitate business with simplified and transparent procedures. Implementation of GST and reforms in financial sector have been undertaken. To boost domestic manufacturing and investment PLI scheme has been launched. The National Single Window System(a digital platform) aids in identifying and applying for approvals in business requirements.

✚ Infrastructure

Infrastructural development has been accorded high priority. PM Gati Shakti scheme has been launched which is a digital platform for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. Road, railway, metro connectivity, air and waterway networks have been expanded. UDAN initiative(which makes air travel affordable) and Vande Bharat trains offer seamless travel experience to all.

✚ Technology

India is the first country to reach the South Pole of the Moon with its successful mission Chandrayaan-3. Other technological breakthroughs are to be in the form of Aditya-L1 mission which will study the Sun and the Gaganyaan mission which will send Indian astronauts to space. India is effectively using technology to improve governance and service delivery mechanisms through platforms like UMANG and Kisan Rath. Another digital success story is empowerment of over 4.6 crore people under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan. Aadhaar and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platforms aid in distribution of subsidies and welfare benefits to targeted beneficiaries.

✚ Environmental Sustainability

In tune with India's concern for the environment, Viksit Bharat strives for a greener and cleaner India. Programmes to encourage renewable energy use, water conservation, and cleanliness, including the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, and National Solar Mission indicate India's efforts in this direction. In terms of installed renewable energy capacity, India is currently the fourth largest in the world. Its solar capacity has been growing exponentially and a record low solar tariff of Rs. 1.99 per unit has been achieved. The Global Biofuel Alliance was launched by India to accelerate global adoption of biofuels is a pioneering step towards sustainability. GOBARdhan scheme was launched to encourage waste-to-energy solutions and to convert agricultural waste to biogas and compost. PM-KUSUM scheme empowers farmers with solar energy solutions. Besides, the One

Sun, One World, One Grid initiatives seek to develop a global grid for solar energy. India also supports all global conservation initiatives upholding internationally acknowledged environmental standards to ensure a sustainable future for future generations. India aims to achieve approximately fifty per cent of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

Women Empowerment

Women empowerment has been accorded high priority with increased representation of women in political decision making. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Act, reserves one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women, including those for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Muslim women's rights and security of marriage has been ensured through criminalisation of triple talaq. Financial inclusion of women has been possible with more than 28 crore women opening Jan Dhan accounts. A large number of women have also benefitted from schemes like PM Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India. Besides, initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission and increased maternity benefits under PMMVY have contributed to welfare and empowerment of women in different ways.

GENDER ELEMENT IN VIKSIT BHARAT:

India's adoption of Viksit Bharat with the theme 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat' marks a switch from Women's Development to Women-Led Development. Indeed, 50% of India's population being women equal and sustainable participation of women is a sine qua non for accomplishing the goals of Viksit Bharat.

In its move towards a more inclusive society and being a signatory to major international treaties like Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development India has always prioritized empowerment of women in its policy. Issues pertaining to health, safety, education, employment and rights of women have been addressed through multi-pronged strategy so as to ensure gender justice, equality and spontaneous participation of women in shaping India's socio-economic and political landscape.

Women shall be leading the way of Viksit Bharat and act as catalysts in empowering the next generation such that 'no one is left behind'. Women have been explicitly considered a priority group in India's policy framework which reaffirms the pledge towards women-led development. In this pretext, various steps are being taken which collectively strive for gender equality and women empowerment and mark India's move towards an inclusive and equitable society.

Initiatives pertaining to empowerment of women, across different sectors, may be outlined as under:

Education:

Education is the most vital factor behind women empowerment. With gender-sensitive curriculum and initiatives like Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan improvement in Gross Enrolment Ratio has been possible. Around 43% of women are enrolled in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) streams indicating they are now stepping behind the conventional disciplines. Digital literacy initiatives have gained momentum with more than 52% of women enrolling under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Digital Saksharta Abhiyan. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme is a coordinated effort of ministries and grassroot organizations to promote education of girl child. The National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education provides financial incentives to promote secondary education among girls and seeks to reduce their dropout rates.

Economic Participation:

The JAM Trinity—comprising Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhar Unique Identification and mobile connectivity is a revolutionary initiative aiming to promote financial inclusion, improving governance and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. This is a bold move towards economic growth and economic empowerment. Over 55% of accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana are held by women. Women entrepreneurship is encouraged since it is considered to be an important driving force behind India's economic progress. Stand-Up India and Startup India schemes provide funds to women entrepreneurs keeping a reserve of 10 % funds for women-led startups. Skill India provides skill-based training to women entrepreneurs and Mudra Yojana supports them by ensuring easy access to loans. Another initiative towards skill development is the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) which equips them to secure better employment opportunities and become economically independent. Around 45 % of manufacturing enterprises are led by women entrepreneurs which is quite significant. Women's participation in the workforce is an indicator of economic growth. With 70% women in economic activities and increase in Female Labour Force Participation Rate, increased number of women from rural and urban areas have acquired financial independence. Self-help groups have transformed the lives of rural women by making them economically independent.

Technology:

Nowadays, digital literacy is an absolute necessity for socio-economic progress and employment opportunities for women. PMGDISHA (Prime Minister's Digital Saksharta Abhiyan), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and SANKALP Hubs for Women Empowerment have undertaken mass scale digital literacy programmes and with appropriate training turned women into able entrepreneurs. As more and more women become digitally literate, women are empowered to make informed decisions, gain better access to resources and to lead, innovate and transform their local communities. This helps in bridging the gender gap in education, governance and entrepreneurship.

Health:

Access to healthcare facilities have led to decline in maternal mortality ratio from 167 to 97. Initiatives like ASHA provide information on determinants of health such as nutrition, basic sanitation & hygienic practices and healthy living while Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana provides financial support to needy expectant mothers. Access to clean cooking fuel has been provided to around ten crore households, safe tap water for 14 crore households and construction of over 13 crore household toilets have considerably improved health and living standards of women. Under the Ujjwala Scheme LPG connections are provided to women from below poverty line households thereby reducing the health hazards associated with traditional cooking methods. Improvement in sex ratio at birth has been possible (from 918 to 933 females per 1000 males) due to effective awareness campaigns to prevent female foeticide under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme. As a step towards enhanced personal hygiene, sanitary napkins are being made available through government stores at cheap rate.

Political Decision making

Representation of women in various levels of decision making has yielded positive results. Currently, there are more than 14 lakh elected women representatives constituting 46 % of representatives in panchayats and municipal corporations. Furthermore, the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 reserves one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies which is expected to transform the nature of governance in India. Participation of women in decision-making at grassroot levels has been possible with reservation of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan trains women to become Sarpanch. With such a move, issues like education, health, nutrition, increase in family income have gained prominence under the able leadership of women. Moreover, vocational training and digital literacy certifications are provided to the women representatives in Panchayats so as to equip them with necessary skills needed for informed decision-making, modern governance and financial independence. Acquiring digital proficiency enables them to leverage technology for efficient service delivery.

Safety and Security

Safety and security of women and girls has been a prime concern of the government. With this concern in mind and attempting to curb gender-based violence, One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme (also called Sakhi) has been launched, which provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence. The Women Helpline (WHL) is another commendable initiative which offers 24/7 emergency response and support services to women affected by violence.

Empowered women contribute to the betterment of economy in terms of able leadership, informed decision making, nurturing future generations and fostering inclusivity and equality. Hence, in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat', elimination of gender-based discrimination and ensuring gender equality are pivotal in accomplishing the cherished dreams of the nation.

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS:

Effective governance is an integral part of all moves towards Viksit Bharat. It necessitates substantial outlays on core sectors of the economy. Government's commitment to Viksit Bharat prioritizes the well-being of four key population groups: the poor, youth, farmers, and women. This has been endorsed by the Union Budget 2025-26 with specific allocations for the core components.

Some of the initiatives are:

- Reforms in tax structure: Exemption limit of personal income tax has been raised to ₹12 lakh from ₹8 lakh with a view to boost up household consumption, savings and investment. These are expected to increase domestic demand and accelerate economic growth.
- Agricultural Development: In order to enhance agricultural productivity, a high yielding crop scheme has been introduced along with access to subsidized credit. Sustainable farming practices have been emphasized.
- Encouragement to MSMEs and Startups : Credit guarantee schemes have been introduced to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Startups to trigger innovation and entrepreneurship thereby accentuating economic growth.
- Increased capital spending on infrastructure : Development of transportation, energy and digital infrastructure have been accorded high priority so as to stimulate economic activity and create job opportunities.
- Hike in gender budget : Allocations for gender-focused initiatives have been raised to 8.8% of the total budget in 2025-26 (as against 6.8% in the previous year). Such a huge allocation is indicative of the government's commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment for women and girls.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Viksit Bharat is a long-term vision for India which incorporates a comprehensive governance model. For successful execution of the vision, a stable macroeconomic framework is necessary wherein collaborative efforts of public and private initiatives will take the economy forward. Indian policy makers have envisioned Viksit Bharat being motivated by consistent growth depicted by India's economy. Higher growth will help the economy to break out of the vicious trap and stimulate consumer demand and investments. Driven by growth stimulus, contributions of both agricultural and industrial sectors are expected to increase to substantially thereby reinforcing linkage effects.

Public welfare policies are crucial for sustaining the growth momentum. Healthcare facilities must be expanded and a three level (national, State, local) system is needed for supplying clean drinking water, drainage, collection, transport, treatment and recycling of water and sewage, and collecting, processing & recycling solid waste. Without a basic health infrastructure, India shall not be considered a developed country. Bridging the gap between rural and urban incomes and transition from a middle income to a high-income economy requires a sustained growth of national income which requires effective policy formulation and implementation. A key driver of India's socio-economic development is the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector which promotes entrepreneurship and job creation. Consequently, boosting the MSME sector is a necessity for attaining inclusive growth. India needs to upgrade her capabilities in manufacturing, logistics and Research & Development to emerge as a global player in these respects as well.

Gender parity is an absolute necessity in India's march forward and creating a robust, foundational base for Viksit Bharat. Empowered women drive growth by active participation in workforce and contributing to household incomes leading to increase in GDP and reduction in poverty. They are also confident to challenge traditional norms and voice their opinions, advocating for gender equality. Besides, their involvement in political decision making prioritizes healthcare, education and social welfare benefitting the society at large. Thus, women empowerment remains a vital factor for Viksit Bharat 2047. It is important to eradicate gender gaps, enhance autonomy and discretion of women in making choices and open up new vistas of opportunities for them. As India approaches 2047, it is imperative that along with eradication of all forms of gender-based discrimination, empowerment of women is accorded high priority so as to ensure their spontaneous participation in the development process.

Viksit Bharat is an ambitious move towards economic prosperity and full-fledged growth momentum which requires culmination of diverse approaches and a commitment to inclusive growth. India has depicted remarkable resilience in rescuing the economy from factors jeopardizing its growth and is currently on the desired development trajectory. This has been possible due to

1 Portal of India)
viksit-bharat-sankalp
 Mastering Fem-Economics: Navigating Indian Women Investment
 Social Science and Management, Volume 4, Issue 2, Mar.-Apr.,
 ing the Way: Sustainable Development and Economic Dynam
 interdisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal-ISSN 2454-8596, 9(si2).
 me Implementation (2024), Women and Men in India 2023, Gove
 dex 2023–24: Towards Viksit Bharat, Sustainable Progress, Inc
 Industry(2024), Viksit Bharat@2047: A Blueprint of Micro and M
 Bharat : Unshackling Job Creators, Empowering Growth Driven

<https://www.india.gov.in/> (National Portal of India)

Kumar, S., & D. Sirohi(2024), Fostering Fem-Economics: Navigating Indian Women Investment Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047, International Journal of Humanities Social Science and Management, Volume 4, Issue 2, Mar.-Apr., 2024, pp: 871-876

Mahida, R. G. (2024), A Leading the Way: Sustainable Development and Economic Dynamics in Viksit Bharat@ 2047, Vidhyayana-An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal-ISSN 2454-8596, 9(sii).

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (2024), Women and Men in India 2023, Government of India, New Delhi

NITI Aayog(2024), SDG India Index 2023–24: Towards Viksit Bharat, Sustainable Progress, Inclusive Growth; Government of India, New Delhi

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry(2024), Viksit Bharat@2047: A Blueprint of Micro and Macroeconomic Dynamics, April 2024

Virmani, Arvind (2024).Viksit Bharat : Unshackling Job Creators, Empowering Growth Drivers; NITI Working Paper, NITI Aayog, July 2024