



India at 2047: Path to Global Power

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Abstract:

The paper is centered on India's aspirations for the next 25 years, focusing on its transition from a developing country to a global power by 2047. It highlights the reforms that are needed to achieve Viksit Bharat. It highlights on the opportunities and challenges India is likely to face. Key themes included economic growth, strategic autonomy, defense modernization, technology, diplomacy, and cultural influence.

Key words: Viksit Bharat, QUAD, Cybersecurity, Digitalization, GDP, Defense Modernization, Soft Power, Global Order

Introduction:

India is one among the rapid growing economies in the world. India aims to reduce dependence on foreign military imports and enhance indigenous defense production. Yoga, Ayurveda, and Indian culture have gained global recognition. Initiatives like the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) promote Indian heritage worldwide. India's ability to maintain a stable democracy for 75 years is a significant achievement compared to other post-colonial nations.

1. India's Journey and Achievements

As India completes 75 years of Independence, it is vital to focus on India's progress in various sectors:

Economic Growth: After 75 years of independence, India's economy has significantly grown, becoming one of the world's fastest-growing economies, marked by shift towards digitalization. India's GDP has expanded significantly, but disparities in income distribution and job creation remain challenges. India faced massive challenges to become the 6th largest economy in the world. Since the independence, its per capita income

increased to 500 times growth. At \$ 3.17 trillion, Indian economy is ranked behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.

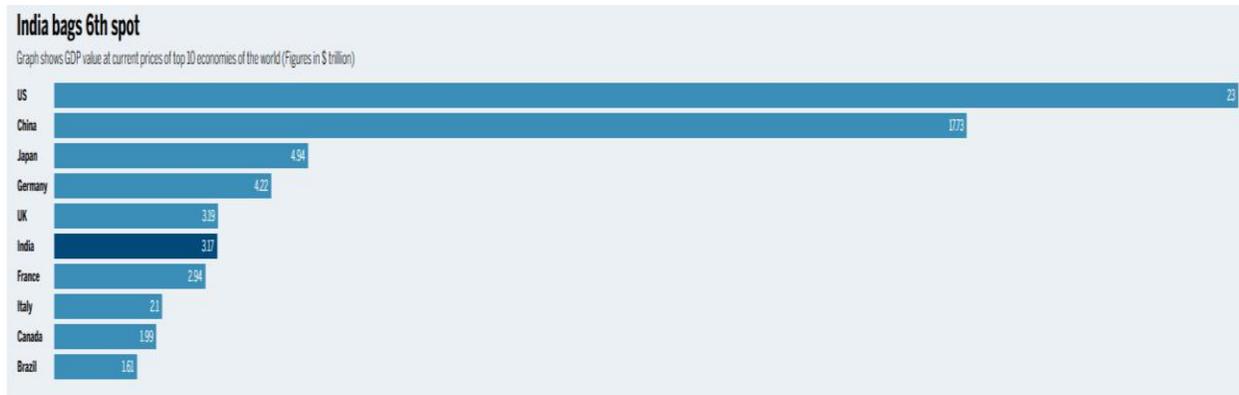


Figure 1: Graph shows GDP value at current prices of top 10 economies of the world (Figures in \$ trillion) Source: World Bank

2. India's Role in the Global Order:

Global Power is that a country that cannot be ignored in global decision-making. Superpower is a country's capability of projecting influence and changing global dynamics through military, economic, and diplomatic strength.

India follows a policy of multi-alignment, maintaining strong relations with Russia while engaging with Western powers. QUAD (U.S., India, Japan, Australia) and Indo-Pacific strategies position India as a key player in regional security. Defense partnerships, such as the Airbus deal with Spain, aim to strengthen India's domestic manufacturing capabilities. China projects power through its military and economy but lacks global goodwill. Japan, despite its smaller size, exerts influence through diplomacy and technological prowess. India should build a strong economy and defense infrastructure. Focus on diplomacy and cultural influence to gain global goodwill.

3. Technology and R&D: The Foundation for Growth

A major theme was India's need to become a leader in technological innovation. India is necessarily need to be shift from net importer to export-driven economy, especially in high important sectors such as electronics chemicals and energy. To emerge India as a global technology leader through advancements in AI, quantum technology, digital manufacturing is also important.

In the sector of semiconductor manufacturing, India currently relies on imports, particularly from Taiwan and China. India's private sector invests less in R&D compared to global counterparts. Government support is essential for fostering innovation.

India signed a deal with Airbus Spain to manufacture 56 aircraft, with 40 to be built in India under the Make in India initiative. This deal aims to develop an indigenous aerospace industry and create jobs.

4. India's Soft Power and Cultural Influence

India's global influence extends beyond economics and military strength. Bollywood and Media are having greater role in reaching the Indian culture globally. Indian films have global audiences, but efforts should focus on showcasing traditional arts and heritage. Higher Education and Exchange Programs through expanding scholarships for foreign students can strengthen India's diplomatic ties. India has given priority for women's empowerment. India has seen progress, with women holding top political and scientific positions. However, grassroots reforms are needed for true gender equality.

5. The Road Ahead: India at 100

Key Goals for the next 25 Years can be summarized as below

- Economic Strength: India must grow at 8-10% annually to achieve a \$10 trillion economy.
- Defense Modernization: In the next 25 years or so, Defence policy makers have to keep an eye on tomorrow's conflicts and also on Today's Capabilities. Reduce reliance on Russian and Western arms by promoting indigenous production.
- Global Leadership in Technology: Invest in AI, cybersecurity, space exploration, and renewable energy.
- Sustainable Development: Balance economic growth with climate change initiatives.
- Cultural Projection: Strengthen institutions like ICCR to enhance India's soft power influence.

Conclusion

India has the potential to become a superpower, but it must focus on internal reforms, economic growth, and technological advancements. There is of course a need for high-quality indigenous defence production. The next 25 years will determine whether India can transition from a regional power to a true global leader. By including sectoral growth with sustainability and inclusivity, India can aim for approximately \$25 - \$35 trillion economy by 2047. This transformation will help to escalate India's global standing, improve the standard of life of the residents and build the nation as a leader across economic, technological and social dimensions. India needs to invest in a strong workforce to sustain long-term growth. India must balance its relationships with China, the U.S., and Russia while maintaining its strategic autonomy.

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