

Inclusive And Viksit Bharat 2047: A Proactive Strategy To A Better Future

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ABSTRACT

The world has witnessed a massive change in the philosophical understanding of development. It is now widely accepted that real and sustained social and economic progress cannot truly come about if a large segment of society is marginalized. This could be the reason why inclusive development, as a strategy for all-round development, seems to have wide appeal among all the stakeholders - government, non-governmental organizations, intellectuals, and civil society organizations. India is no exception in this regard. India's vision, 'Viksit Bharat 2047' embodies a complete blueprint for the country's future in terms of prosperity; encompasses components ranging from economic growth to inclusive development. This paper analyses various welfare schemes and initiatives taken up by the government with a vision to make the country inclusively developed by 2047, the 100th year of its independence.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, Inclusive Development, Vision, Sankalp Yatra, Saturation

Understanding 'Viksit Bharat 2047'

'Viksit Bharat 2047' is the current BJP-led NDA government's roadmap to making India a completely developed nation by 2047 with a vision to foster inclusive economic participation among all citizens. Viksit Bharat 2047 represents the government's vision to transform the country into a developed entity by its 100th year of independence in 2047, with Yuva, Garib, Mahila and Kisan as its four pillars. The idea of Viksit Bharat is established on the conjecture of a prosperous Bharat; in harmony with modern infrastructure while creating opportunities for all citizens to explore their potential (Acharya, 2024). A crucial component of this initiative is the assertive ambition for elevating India to the rank of the world's third-largest economy within the next five years, contingent upon the NDA assuming power once more (Deccan Herald, 2024). Viksit Bharat or Developed India epitomizes a complete blueprint for the country's prosperity, and not just a catchphrase. This vision, by encompassing many components ranging from economic growth to inclusive development, will be the guiding principle for India during its 'Amrit Kaal'. A 'People-Centric Inclusive Development Approach' that incorporates substantive development of all forms of infrastructure (physical, digital and social), Digital Public Infrastructure or DPI-promoted formalisation and financial inclusion, deepening and widening of tax base via GST, GIFT IFSC- a robust gateway for global capital and financial services for the economy, and proactive inflation management with every part of the country becoming active participants in economic progress. With social changes, technical innovations, and economic reforms combined, the government hopes to raise India's position at the global level.

One of the main aims of Viksit Bharat 2047 is to turn India to a \$30-trillion developed economy in about two decades for a projected 1.65 billion population (Hindustan Times, n.d., qtd. in Deccan Herald, 2024). The document envisions economic growth, sustainable development goals and improvements in the ease of living and doing business, enhanced infrastructure, and bolstered social welfare initiatives. It also takes into account four major factors likely to take centre-stage by 2050: India and Africa's increasing prominence on the global stage, reflecting the current government's emphasis on the Global South at G20; a world marked by growing affluence but also polarization; escalating climate crises; and a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. Other factors include the emergence of a 'phygital' future, where rapidly advancing digital technology reshapes the physical world; groundbreaking innovations reshaping lifestyles; global competition for shared resources like space, oceans and data; and the uncertainties posed by the unknown.

A high-flying objective of Viksit Bharat 2047 is that it intends to enable every citizen to participate in the economy, which is being projected as strong, inclusive, and employment-oriented, topped up with entrepreneurial opportunities. This entails implementing policies to encourage investment, higher economic growth, and foster innovation across various industries. Numerous programmes such as Make in India, Digital India and Startup India have by now embodied these policies. With the support of digitization, homegrown manufacturing, and a thriving startup community, the government hopes to lift up millions of people out of poverty and realize the nation's full economic potential.

Another crucial component of Viksit Bharat 2047 is its goal to develop world-class infrastructures to promote sustainable growth and improve living standards. To fill up the infrastructure gaps across the country, the government is launching large-scale projects, such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and Smart Cities Mission. Vande Bharat trains and the UDAN initiatives have made the travel experience hassle-free for common people. In addition, the expansion of metro trains has also ensured smooth travelling within cities.

Viksit Bharat 2047 emphasizes inclusive development and social welfare; ensures benefits to all the people. Programmes and schemes, such as Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, etc. point toward the government's dedication in promoting healthcare facilities, financial inclusion, gender parity and sanitation. The government is also keen to build a more inclusive and equitable society wherein all the people can be economically integrated. Initiatives such as Jan Aushadi Kendras could save Rs 30,000 crores for individuals with deprived background, by providing medicines at the rates discounted by 80%.

On the sustainability front, Viksit Bharat 2047 endeavours to make India greener and cleaner. The government has started programmes to encourage renewable energy use, water conservation, and cleanliness, including the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Solar Mission. It supports conservatory initiatives, climate-resilient infrastructure, and renewable energy. India is dedicated to upholding internationally acknowledged environmental standards; it aims to achieve approximately fifty per cent of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. In its commitment to meet 'Net Zero' by 2070, the government has adopted strategies, such as viability gap funding for wind energy, setting up of coal gasification and liquefaction capacity, phased mandatory blending of CNG, PNG and compressed biogas, and financial assistance for procurement of biomass aggregation machinery. Rooftop solar installation will enable one crore households getting access to solar energy; obtaining up to 300 units of free electricity per month. Adopting e-buses for public transport network and strengthening the overall e-vehicle ecosystem, etc. are some of the key aspects associated with harnessing solar energy. New scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry is to be launched to support environment friendly alternatives.

Another key pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047 leans on harnessing technology to enhance efficiency and transparency in governance. Through platforms like Aadhaar and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), the government has streamlined the distribution of subsidies and welfare benefits; reduced leakages, and ensured assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries directly. The DBT has helped the government eliminate ten crore fraudulent entries and successfully curbed financial leakages; it could save nearly Rs 3 lakh crore from falling into the wrong hands. Additionally, schemes like Ayushman Bharat have utilized technology to create digital health infrastructures, enabling citizens easy and hassle-free access to healthcare services. On the whole, the government's emphasis on leveraging technology for welfare purposes underscores its commitment to inclusive development and empowerment of all the citizens.

The preceding discussion has, to a considerable extent, substantiated Viksit Bharat, 2047 as a vision, illustrated by an ambitious plan to achieve India's full potential and propel the country to unprecedented development and prosperity. It strives for establishing a more resilient and inclusive society where Janbhagidari is the basis of the nation's success story. Furthermore, the government is focusing on infrastructural development, social welfare, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

Viksit Bharat: A Vision by 2047

As mentioned before, Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vision to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its independence. This vision encompasses various facets of development, such as economic growth, environmental sustainability, social progress and good governance, to make India a developed nation by 2047. Acharya (2024) opines that Viksit Bharat, by 2047, may possibly focus more on aspects like: (a) Economic growth, exemplified by resilience that can provide opportunities and high living standards for all its citizens. The economy should be able to cope with the 21st century challenges premised on entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness. (b) Environmental sustainability that pledges a clean and green environment to preserve India's biodiversity and natural resources. The environment should be able to mitigate the impacts of climate change in terms of restoration, conservation and resilience. (c) Social progress that ensures an inclusive and harmonious society. Society should be able to celebrate and respect India's cultural heritage founded on justice, equality and diversity. (d) Agile governance with sound policies and accountability. As envisioned by Padder (2023), India needs to address the emerging global challenges such as widening gap between rich and poor countries and even within countries, leading to increased social

unrest and political instability, the rise of China and other emerging powers that could challenge the dominance of the US and its allies, creating avenues for new tensions and opportunities for cooperation, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation that could pose serious threats to human security and well-being, and the growing population creating new challenges and opportunities for social and economic development.

Inclusive Development: A Brief Understanding

In the words of Amartya Sen, 'Development is based on Capabilities'. Capability to function is what really matters for status as of the poor or non-poor person. As he puts it, 'Economic growth cannot be sensibly treated as end in itself. Development has to be more concerned with enhancing the lives we lead and the freedom we enjoy' (Knoff, 1999, qtd. in Taneja & Myer, 2007). Development aims at improving the quality of life of an individual and society; life sustenance, self esteem and freedom being the three ingredients of good life (Taneja & Myer, 2007). Today, it is understood that development is not possible without the empowerment and participation of every individual, especially the poor and excluded who constitute the majority of population. The world has witnessed disparities and inequalities despite the opulence and progress showcased by a few, at the cost of masses. Recent development thinking which is, now based on inclusiveness takes into account a holistic approach termed, 'inclusive development'.

Etymologically, 'Inclusive Development' is a combination of two words, 'inclusive', and 'development'. Inclusive means a sense of belonging; feeling respected, valued for who you are; feeling a level of supportive energy and commitment from others so that you can do your best work. The concept of inclusive development, though a catchphrase in recent policy and political domains across the globe, has its roots in almost all major ancient civilizations across different parts of the world. The philosophical understanding of development has undergone massive change in the last few decades. It is now widely understood that real and sustained social and economic progress cannot truly occur if a large segment of society is marginalized. This is the reason why inclusive development, as a strategy for all-round development, seems to have wide appeal among all the stakeholders - government, non-governmental organizations, intellectuals, and civil society organizations.

In recent years, the inclusive development approach is the thrust area of the Inclusive Development United Nations Organization, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in its forty-sixth session (February 2008), focused on integrating women and the disabled into the development process by addressing the causes of discrimination. The UNDP's inclusive development approach integrates the standards and principles of human rights: participation, non-discrimination, and accountability. The four inclusive development approaches of the UNDP, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are (a) creating productive and gainful employment (b) building effective and efficient social safety nets to protect those who cannot work, or, who earn too little (c) enhancing public services by building schools and hospitals, training teachers, and doctors, and providing access to water, sanitation and transportation, all of which requires public spending (d) executing well designed fiscal policies - the way a government collects and spends public resources can play a major role in stimulating growth and reducing poverty. Inclusive development is one of the important policy initiatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and it covers a wide range of issues such as disability, gender, regional disparities, and environment.

The Notion of Inclusive Development in India

Development is 'inclusive' only when an equitable development approach is effected. Inclusive development is built on the notion that every individual and community, of all diverse identities and experiences, is instrumental in the transformation of their own societies. Their engagement throughout the entire development process leads to better outcomes. This means that diverse individuals and communities are active participants and partners throughout the entire development process (USAID, n. d.). Inclusive development promotes fair opportunities for all, regardless of social and financial standing, with advantages accruing to each and every segment of society.

In India, the inclusive development encompasses various societal aspects, such as: (a) Awareness about socio-cultural facets of tribal lifestyle; assimilation of communities in society; educating tribal communities at grassroots level; access basic necessities such as clean water, food amenities, sanitation, electricity, network connectivity; connectivity through proper roads; pucca (made of bricks & cement) houses; supporting rural communities to achieve self-sufficiency and maximize their potential; introduction to new basic technologies, etc. (b) Providing physically disabled people with facilities, such as wheelchairs and audio-visual aids; installation of ramps and tactical paths for easy accessibility; awareness on inclusion of differently-abled in society; training of individuals and professionals on 'interacting with differently-abled'; skilling specially-abled, sign language training, etc. (c) Awareness about the importance of bank accounts in rural and tribal areas, financial literacy, mobile banking etc. (d) Providing pre-natal, ante-natal and post-natal cares to women; healthcare, education, childcare, skill-development, opportunities for financial improvement, etc. (e) Increasing access to opportunities for marginalized communities; skill development, creating awareness of

new businesses and self-help groups, easy access to financial services such as banks, financial literacy and education, etc. (f) Provision for free and compulsory education, distribution of books and other stationery items in the backward and tribal regions. (g) Increase in healthcare services, creating awareness about personal hygiene, basic knowledge of first-aid, menstrual care, reproductive health, vaccination, immunization for children, awareness about healthy lifestyle, proper disposal of sewerage etc. (h) Development of infrastructure in rural and tribal areas including housing, roads, electrification, water supply, waste water management etc. (i) Creating awareness about legal rights and government schemes, etc. (j) Promoting entrepreneurship by increasing awareness about available resources, awareness about economic independence, safe opportunities for earning livelihood in rural areas, etc.

How Inclusive is Viksit Bharat 2047?

As the nation walks into Viksit Bharat 2047, the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' has emerged as a powerful tool for bridging the gap between the government and citizens, ensuring the benefits of various schemes reach those for whom they are meant. Until these schemes can benefit those who needed them the most, the very objective of 'inclusive development' will ever remain unmet. There are reasons for people not getting access to the benefits; the most important one being the lack of awareness about them. This ultimately defeats the very purpose for which they are being framed; hence the situation on the ground remains the same inspite of all soaring claims (Kumar, 2024). To overcome this inaccessibility, bridging knowledge gap between the government and the potential beneficiaries is something instantly called for. This urgency has, thus, merited the nationwide 'Sankalp Yatra'. In a nutshell, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra aims at reaching out to the vulnerable population eligible under multiple schemes but has not yet opted for their benefits till now, to spread knowledge about the schemes and generate awareness, to interact with the scheme-beneficiaries via personal experience and sharing, and to enroll potential beneficiaries via information ascertained in the journey.

PIB (2023) perceives that the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is the largest-ever outreach initiative of the government of India. Planked on the vision of inclusive development, it has been a constant endeavour to ensure that the benefits of the government schemes reach all in every corner of the nation achieving 100% saturation. The Yatra marks a significant step in the achievement of this inclusivity objective through outreach, information dissemination, and empowering citizens to become active stakeholders in the country's development expedition. The purpose of the Yatra, therefore, is to generate awareness regarding the central government's welfare schemes and policies and achieve 100% saturation of flagship government schemes. Keeping in line with this objective, over 21000 people got themselves registered for the PM Ujjwala Yojana on the very first day of the Yatra. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra also highlighted the milestones achieved with '100% saturation' of government flagship schemes. Eighty three Gram Panchayats have achieved 100% Ayushman Card saturation; eighty nine Gram Panchayats with 100% JJM saturation, ninety seven Gram Panchayatss with 100% Jan Dhan saturation, and 124 Gram Panchayats have achieved the Open Defecation Free+ (ODF Plus) status. Individual success stories were also weaved into the Yatra where over 200 beneficiaries presented 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubani', a testimony on transformation brought about by the government's flagship schemes to their lives.

Schemes Announced in the wake of Viksit Bharat, 2047

In the Interim Budget 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047. In her Budget 2024 speech, she mentioned that the government is working towards development that is all-pervasive, all-round and all-inclusive. The Finance Minister, in her speech, also stated that many development and growth-enabling reforms are needed in the states to realise Viksit Bharat's vision. Accordingly, a provision of Rs.75000 crore as a 50-year interest-free loan is proposed to the state governments to support their milestone-linked reforms. Helping MSMEs grow and compete will also be a part of the Viksit Bharat roadmap (Acharya, 2024).

In the wake of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Finance Minister announced a few new schemes which are due to be launched, and to renew a few existing schemes as well which are by now in operation. The budget hinted at launching a new Rooftop Solar Scheme or PM Suryodaya Yojana, which aims to achieve 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore households through rooftop installation. Benefits expected to accrue to the households could amount to Rs 18000 annually in realized savings, from free solar electricity and selling the surplus electricity to the distribution companies. The government will launch a housing scheme to help people belonging to middle-class families living in rented houses, slums, chawls and unauthorised colonies to build or buy their own houses. As laid down in the Budget 2024, the government, in its effort to prevent cervical cancer, proposed to encourage vaccination for girls in the age group of 9-14 years. The Budget 2024, in addition, projected a strategy to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' for oil seeds, such as groundnut, mustard, soybean, sesame and sunflower. This scheme or Abhiyan will cover the widespread adoption of modern farming techniques, research for high-yielding varieties, value addition, procurement, market linkages and crop insurance. A new dairy development programme will support dairy farmers in controlling foot and mouth disease. The programme will be based on the success of the existing schemes, such as the National

Livestock Mission, Rashtriya Gokul Mission and Infrastructure Development Funds for Dairy Processing and Animal Husbandry. The government also announced to set up a Rs 1 lakh crore corpus with a 50-year interest-free loan. This corpus will provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors plus zero or low-interest rates as an encouragement for the private sector to scale up innovation and research. The Budget 2024 decided to launch a new scheme of bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry to promote green growth. This scheme will provide environmental friendly alternatives, such as bioplastics, biodegradable polymers, bio-agri-inputs and bio-pharmaceuticals. The government will also launch a scheme for adaptation and restoration measures, coastal aquaculture and mariculture with an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to promote climate-resilient activities for blue economy 2.0.

Existing Schemes and Programmes

Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, there has been a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 34 lakh crore from the government using the PM Jan Dhan accounts, leading to savings of Rs 2.7 lakh crore for the government. The savings have helped to provide more funds for 'Garib Kalyan'. PM-SVANidhi Yojana has provided credit assistance to 78 lakh street vendors. Out of this, a total of 2.3 lakh vendors have received credit for the third time. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, direct financial assistance is provided to 11.8 crore farmers every year, including marginal and small farmers. The government has also provided crop insurance to four crore farmers under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The Skill India Mission has re-skilled and up-skilled 54 lakh youth, trained 1.4 crore youth and established 3,000 new ITIs. Many new institutions of higher learning, including 15 AIIMS, 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 16 IIITs and 390 universities, have been set up. There has been a sanction of 43 crore loans for the entrepreneurial aspirations of youth under the PM Mudra Yojana, aggregating to Rs 22.5 lakh crore. There has been a sanction of 30 crore PM Mudra Yojana loans to women entrepreneurs. Under the PM Awas Yojana (Rural), over 70% of houses are given to women as joint or sole owners. The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana has provided benefits to 38 lakh farmers and generated 10 lakh employments. With the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Yojana, necessary assistance has been given to 2.4 lakh SHGs and 60,000 individuals with credit linkages. (Acharya, 2024)

Keeping an eye on agriculture in India, the government has given a seven point strategy for doubling farmers' income and in pursuance of that many programmes have been launched. PM Kisan Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) focuses on 'per drop, more crops', (Kumar, 2023) with the literal meaning being every single drop of water matters. Besides focusing on big irrigation projects, the government is also tapping into already existing irrigation projects by plugging leakages, reducing conveyance losses, de-silting of canals etc. This would ensure that a larger area is put under irrigation. Rain-fed regions which constitute more than fifty per cent of the arable land are being heeded to increase their productivity (Kumar, 2023). For marketing of produce, a national farm market, an electronic National Agricultural Marketing (e-NAM) has been created to connect about 585 markets all across the country, where farmers can sell and purchase the produce online. Besides, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, (PMKISAN) comes with a financial support of Rs 6000 annually to every farming household. Other programmes and initiatives like Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM PRANAM), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), etc also promote natural ways of farming so that the cost of cultivation can be reduced, Mission For Integrated Development of Horticulture, MIDH, Farm mechanization through agriculture drones and machinery, Agri-startups and agripreneurship (Kumar, 2023) have helped farmers realize that farming is still a noble and remunerative enterprise.

Changes Proposed in the Existing Schemes

The Government of India plans to provide two crore more houses in the next five years to meet the requirements arising from the increase in the number of families under the PM-AWAS Yojana (Grameen). The government has decided to consolidate various maternal and childcare schemes into one comprehensive programme to boost its implementation. There will be an expedition in the upgradation of Anganwadi centres under the 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0' for early childhood care, improved nutrition delivery and development. The government will also roll out the newly designed U-WIN platform for managing immunisation and expeditiously intensifying efforts of the 'Mission Indradhanush' throughout the country. Healthcare cover under the Ayushman Bharat scheme will be extended to all Anganwadi workers, helpers, and ASHA workers. The application of Nano DAP on various crops will be extended after the successful adoption of Nano Urea on various crops in all agro-climatic zones. The establishment of the Department for Fisheries has resulted in a doubling of inland and aquaculture production and seafood export. The government has proposed to enhance aquaculture productivity from the existing 3 tons to 5 tons per hectare, double the exports to Rs.1 lakh crore, generate 55 lakh employment opportunities in the near future and set up five integrated aquaparks The government has

enhanced the target for Lakhpati Didi from two crore to three crore based on the success of nearly one crore women. Eighty-three lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) with nine crore women are transforming the rural socio-economic landscape with self-reliance and empowerment due to which nearly one crore women have become Lakhpati Didi.

Concluding Note

Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vision of Government of India to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its independence. As India stands at this crucial juncture, poised to take off on its growth trajectory, it is important to realise that tremendous dedication and belief in India's destiny, immense desire, potential, talent and capabilities of the Indians, especially the youth, coupled with steadfast leadership, is necessary to realise this potential. There is enormous work that needs to be undertaken in a mission mode to make India a Viksit Bharat by 2047. For this to happen, there is a need to chalk out a bold, ambitious and transformative agenda, and its communication to all stakeholders. Viksit Bharat 2047 needs to focus more on aspects of economy such as structural transformation which allows shifting of resources from low-productivity sectors to high-productivity sectors. This can boost economic growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty. The vision needs to envelop aspects like improving the quality of labour, enhancing the skills and employability of workers, and ensuring fair and efficient labour regulations that can serve as catalysts for increasing productivity. Viksit Bharat 2047 also entails a strong and vibrant democracy manifested in good governance which interests a participatory and accountable system, the rule of law, a cooperative federalism, transparency and a responsive public service delivery. This can reduce corruption, and at the same time, increase trust and legitimacy. Adopting and promoting green technologies such as renewable energy, energy efficient technologies, and climate resilience can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate environmental degradation while creating new opportunities for growth and development. Therefore, 'Now' is the right time that India formulates a vision for the nation's future that addresses problems of the present while taking into account the opportunities coming up in future. Making India a developed nation by 2047 requires a vision which can stimulate all the forces, and every citizen into a ground-up movement. Vision for a better future for this country cannot simply be an idea for us to mull over but rather should invoke in us all a sense of responsibility as to how our individual and collective decisions can turn this dream into a reality. People in power must vow to build a nation that is both prosperous and happy, and empathetic towards the needs of its less privileged. What all the citizens of this country must do is to build a more responsible nation wherein there exists no class or caste, where ideas flow freely and where its citizens enjoy maximum social and political freedom.

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