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Address for correspondence:

Dr. Yogesh Malshette
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Basic
Science and Humanities Bharati
Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be
University) College of Engineering,
Pune (Ms) India
Email: dryogeshmalshette@gmail.com

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India @ 2047: A Vision of Superpower

Sonali Y. Malshette¹, Dr. Yogesh Malshette²

¹Assistant Professor Dept. of Basic Science and Humanities Rajgad Dnyanpeeth's,
Rajgad Dnyanpeeth Technical Campus Polytechnic, Dhawagadi, Pune, (Ms) India

² Assistant Professor, Dept. of Basic Science and Humanities Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be
University) College of Engineering, Pune
(Ms) India

Abstract

The vision of India 2047 is a long-term national project: by the centenary of the independence, India will become a developed, inclusive, innovative, and globally influential country. This objective is often expressed in the form of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, a vision that is associated with economic growth, social justice, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, technological progress, and good governance. According to government platforms this vision entails economic growth, social development, environmental sustainability, and good governance, as well as incorporating the participation of the people, particularly the youth. This article explores whether India is a realist in its aim to become a superpower by 2047 and argues that this transformation will not only be based on the growth of its GDP, but also on institutional change, human capital, innovation potential, the energy transition, and whether India can turn its demographic mass into productive power. According to the recent official and multilateral sources, India has a good momentum: the World Bank indicated that in FY26, India was once again the fastest growing major economy, and the growth rate has increased to 7.6 percent. Simultaneously, structural issues like inequality, employment opportunity, education level, city stress, and exposure to climate will have to be addressed in the long term. Therefore, the journey of India to superpower in 2047 should be perceived as a national project with many dimensions and not only an economic prediction.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat 2047, economic growth, technology, sustainability, global leadership

Introduction

The process of the Indian transformation to become one of the largest economies in the world after the colonial subjugation has been one of the most impressive changes in the modern world. With the country setting its eyes on the 2047 centennial of independence, the dream of becoming an established and globally decisive power, the vision has shifted towards the policy imagination. This national aspiration has become the Viksit Bharat @2047. According to official sources, it is the vision of transforming India into a developed country in the year 2047 by bringing about economic growth, social development, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The claim that India is a future superpower is wider than just an economic size claim. A superpower should, besides having a big economy, have strategic independence, technological capacity, social and social strength, military credibility, diplomatic strength, and civilizational self-confidence. Some of the building blocks of such a role already exist in India: a huge population, a big domestic market, strong democratic values, the rising digital divide, and the rising international profile due to diplomacy, trade, and strategic alliances. In its Viksit Bharat paper, NITI Aayog suggests that the future leadership of the world is in the hands of India, and in its Viksit Bharat 2047 paper, another piece by NITI claims that India could become a high-income nation by 2047 with a robust per-capita growth trajectory. This paper will argue that India can become a superpower by 2047, though this is only possible by developing in a balanced manner. It will not be sufficient to make the economic scale. India has to build up manufacturing, education, research, energy system, public institutions, urban planning and social inclusion at the same time. It is through this that the future of India in the year 2047 will be determined by whether it can be broad-based, sustainable and innovation-driven growth.

The Idea of Viksit Bharat @2047

Viksit Bharat is not just a slogan, but it is a developmental framework that aims at the integration of long-term ambitions and action in the current policy. The official announcements call the initiative an inclusive and transformative project and a roadmap that revolves around growth, sustainability, governance, and citizen participation. The Viksit Bharat project on MyGov portrays the project as a community initiative to the realization of an inclusive, progressive, empowered, prosperous and sustainable India. This language is significant as it demonstrates that development as defined by the Indian state is not restricted to narrowly industrial perspectives. The discussion of 2047 covers youth empowerment, women involvement, poverty chances, and transforming the rural areas.

This focus is indicative of a larger understanding: India has no more important long-term resource than territory or capital, and this is people. But the Viksit Bharat ideal also poses a question. Is aspiration structural change? Vision documents are important, and their worth is in implementation. To transform beyond the stage of aspiration to superpower India needs to generate quantifiable development in income, employment status, health, educational attainment, and environmental sustainability. The 2047 vision is strong in terms of breadth; the weakness is going to be evident in case the breadth is not accompanied by institutional capacity.

Economic Growth as the Base of Superpower Status

Any discussion about India as a superpower is serious and commences with economics. To become a leading player in terms of geopolitics and technologies, a nation has to maintain a high economic production during decades. In this case, India comes to the 2047 discussion bearing actual benefits. The April 2026 India Development Update by the World Bank indicated that India was the fastest-growing major economy in FY26 as growth increased to 7.6 percent in FY26, compared to 7.1 percent in FY25. The report also reported further fiscal tightening and steady employment, and another World Bank regional forecast projected India's FY2025/26 growth at 7.2 percent with a strong domestic demand. This growth is important since a continued growth multiplies national strength. It enhances the capacity of the state, raises the tax revenues, boosts consumer demand, and makes India more appealing as a place to invest. In their 2024 working paper Viksit Bharat, NITI Aayog asserts that under a middle scenario, India would become an upper-middle-income economy by about 2031 and high-income economy by about 2047. This is not an inevitability but it goes to prove that the 2047 ambition has been modelled to be economically feasible and not merely symbolic. Nevertheless, there is a distinction between a big economy and a developed economy that is essential. There is a possibility that a nation may experience a high aggregate GDP and yet experience low per-capita income, inequalities in the region, and uneven social infrastructure. The dilemma facing India then is two-fold; not just to get richer in general, but to get prosperous at the household level, at the worker level and at the regions level. It cannot be constructed on islands of prosperity and huge areas of poverty to a superpower. Therefore, the economic growth should be high, yet also employment-intensive, regionally-distributed, and innovation-driven.

Demography, Education, and Human Capital

The population of India is commonly said to be its strongest asset, yet alone demography is not a source of power. It can only be an asset with the support of education, nutrition, health care, and skills. This is the reason why the official Viksit Bharat discourse focuses on the involvement of youth. A young population has the ability to spur entrepreneurship, use of technology, growth of labor force, and national output. However, in the absence of sufficient level of education and employment, the demographic dividend will deteriorate into social frustration. The real linkage between aspiration and achievement is human capital. India needs to generate more graduates by 2047, but higher-quality citizens who can work in manufacturing, research, design, clean energy, health systems, artificial intelligence, logistics, and public administration. India needs to rival not only in terms of numbers, but also in terms of knowledge in case it wants to be a superpower.

The issue is particularly critical since the global economy is becoming more and more skill-based. Innovative countries are not only producing goods but also patents, platforms, standards, and scientific breakthroughs. The future power of India will be based on the enhancement of the basic literacy and numeracy, the development of the quality of higher education, the research institutions, and matching the skills to the future industries. Education is not in this sense a welfare issue in itself. It is a strategic national interest.

Technology, Innovation, and Digital Leadership

An impending superpower will have to be in control of technological ecosystems. There is good potential in this region in India. The Viksit Bharat framework by the government and the strategic work of NITI both put the processes of innovation and future-oriented capability close to the core of the development thought. According to a report on AI by NITI Aayog, the Viksit Bharat, AI can greatly speed up the Indian economic trajectory and would increase the GDP more than it is projected to do. This is important since technological leadership will determine the world hierarchy in the twenty first century. The next phase of power will be characterized by artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications, cybersecurity, space systems, biotechnology, and digital public infrastructure. India has already shown great potential in the area of digital governance and scale-based technological implementation. The second step is more intricate, shifting to technology adoption to technology creation. Innovation is also directly related to national sovereignty. Countries that are wholly reliant on technology imported will be strategically bound. In order to emerge as a superpower by 2047, India needs to increase its domestic research and development and university-industry cooperation, encourage start-ups outside of metropolitan elites, and invest more in frontier science. Technology must not be considered as a separate industry; it is the nervous system of future economical and geopolitical strength.

Sustainability and the Energy Transition

Climate and sustainability cannot be left out in a plausible vision of India in 2047. Unchecked and unbalanced growth would not support the long-term prosperity. In this case, current policy practice considers sustainability as a part, not a supplement. According to government sources, environmental sustainability is among the pillars of Viksit Bharat. The 2026 outlook on the pathways towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero by the NITI Aayog has the 2047 vision as linked to a low-carbon developmental future and mentions a scenario where GDP of India increases to USD 30 trillion by 2047 compared to the approximately USD 4.18 trillion as of 2025. This is an important observation. The twenty first century will see national power based more on energy security, clean

industrial systems, resilience in the face of climate shocks, and sustainable management of urban growth. India experiences acute climatic vulnerabilities: heat stress, water pressure, pollution, and threats of disasters. These are not peripheral environmental concerns; these are core development matters. India can prove to be an example of a different form of development by achieving growth and renewable growth, energy efficiency, electrification, and resilient infrastructure. That would not only enhance domestic welfare but also the moral and diplomatic prestige of India in the international arena. A super power of 2047 cannot be characterized on the basis of military power and economic power alone but should also have a stamp of stewardship and sustainability.

Governance, Inclusion, and Social Justice

A nation cannot be a lasting superpower when so many of its citizens are deprived of development benefits. Inclusion, particularly that of youth, women, the poor and farmers, is repeatedly stressed in official statements about Viksit Bharat. This is one significant reality: India will be strong and not because of growth rates, but due to social cohesion. Inclusion should be on multiple levels. First, regional inclusion is an issue. The states and cities are not developing equally. Second, it is the issue of class inclusion. Growth must enhance accessibility to the poorer population and not just increase wealth concentration. Third, the issue of gender inclusion is important. A country that does not utilize half of the abilities of its citizens cannot have optimum productivity. Fourth, inclusion in rural is important. Agricultural revolution, rural interconnectedness and non-farm jobs will continue to play a crucial role in the balance of the country. Good government is also decisive. Development is sustainable with efficient administration, legal predictability, anti-corruption, contract enforcement and responsive institutions. Governance is one of the pillars of the 2047 vision as officially defined by Viksit Bharat. The thesis is simple: visionary policy in the absence of strong institutions is a source of uneven delivery. In comparison, clear and competent governance transforms plans into lived reality.

India and Global Leadership

To call India a superpower is also to talk of the outside influence. A superpower determines the stability in the region, international standards, trade systems, technology conventions, and diplomatic interests. The latest NITI efforts directly present the way to global leadership in India as the strategic question that is connected with the 2047 vision. This framing implies that the future role of India is not only defensive or domestic, but is outward-looking. The world power of India is based on a number of advantages. It is a big democracy, a big market, a big strategic partner and a civilizational state with extensive culture. Its voice will have more to say in discussions of the Global South, supply chains, digital governance, energy security, and multipolar diplomacy. Global leadership also demands a balance between domestic achievement and global aspiration. When the domestic growth of the countries provides them with the external credibility, the countries become influential. Therefore, the diplomacy of India in 2047 will be the most effective when supported by technological ability, military preparedness, economic mass as well as social stability. A country that addresses complicated issues within its borders is more compelling in other countries. In that regard, there are no domestic and international aspects of the 2047 vision that can be separated.

Challenges to the 2047 Dream

The dream of India as a superpower is compelling, but it is not automatic. Several obstacles could slow or distort the journey. Economic growth may remain strong but insufficiently job-rich. Educational expansion may continue without equivalent quality. Cities may grow without adequate planning. Climate stress could raise long-term costs. Technological dependence could persist in key sectors. Regional and social inequalities could deepen. Even optimistic policy documents should therefore be read critically. Forecasts and scenarios indicate possibility, not inevitability. NITI's high-income pathway and net-zero growth scenario are meaningful because they show what may be achievable under sustained reform, not because they guarantee an outcome. Likewise, strong recent growth numbers are encouraging, but one or two good years do not settle a twenty-year transformation. The central challenge is continuity. India must sustain reform across electoral cycles, global shocks, and changing technological landscapes. Becoming a superpower by 2047 will require policy discipline, institutional adaptability, and a national commitment to long-term investment in people and systems.

Conclusion

India at 2047 is best understood as a test of whether a large postcolonial democracy can transform itself into a developed, equitable, innovative, and globally influential power within a century of independence. The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 already provides an official framework for this ambition, emphasizing economic growth, social progress, sustainability, and governance. Recent economic performance and policy projections suggest that India has genuine momentum and a plausible path toward much greater global stature.

Yet the real meaning of superpower status lies beyond size. India will deserve that title only if it can translate demographic scale into human capability, economic growth into broad prosperity, digital progress into innovation leadership, and national ambition into inclusive justice. The future therefore depends not on vision alone, but on execution. If India can align growth, governance, sustainability, science, and social inclusion over the next two decades, then 2047 may indeed mark not only the centenary of independence, but the arrival of India as one of the defining powers of the century.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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