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Charting The Course Towards Viksit Bharat 2047: A Comprehensive Exploration of India's Path to Development

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Abstract

India is reaching a turning point in its history as it prepares to celebrate the centennial of its independence in 2047. Viksit Bharat 2047 is an ambitious plan that aims to make major advancements in the economy, technology, social welfare, government, and international diplomacy to turn India into a developed country. This research study offers a thorough examination of India's developmental trajectory through an analysis of past significant events, present difficulties, and potential future developments. It explores the fundamental components of development, which are technical breakthroughs, social fairness, environmental sustainability, economic growth, and strong governance frameworks. All of these are essential to realizing this goal. The relevance of foreign alliances and partnerships is emphasized in the paper's discussion of India's strategic orientation on the international scene. India has many obstacles on its path to 2047, including resource scarcity, population expansion, political unpredictability, and economic uncertainty. To overcome these challenges and fulfill the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047, this paper provides a clear road map along with doable tactics that would position India as a global leader in development and prosperity.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, India Development, Economic Growth, Governance, Global Diplomacy



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1. Introduction

India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047, the centenary of its independence, is encapsulated in the visionary initiative known as "Viksit Bharat 2047." This ambitious framework aims to transform the nation by addressing critical areas such as economic growth, technological advancement, social equity, environmental sustainability, and robust governance. The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision is not just a roadmap for development but a clarion call for every Indian to contribute to the country's progress. It envisions an India that is economically strong, technologically advanced, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable a nation that can take its rightful place on the global stage. The year 2047 holds profound significance as it marks 100 years of India's independence from colonial rule. It is a milestone that invites reflection on the nation's achievements and challenges over the past century and offers an opportunity to set new goals for the future. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked, "By 2047, the dream of a Viksit Bharat will be realized, where poverty, corruption, and inequality will be eradicated, and every Indian will live with dignity and prosperity" (Viksit Bharat@2047). This vision underscores the importance of collective efforts and sustained progress in realizing a developed and self-reliant India. This paper aims to explore the various dimensions of India's developmental journey towards 2047, analyze the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and propose a strategic roadmap that aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. Through a comprehensive examination of historical milestones, governance structures, economic policies, and technological advancements, this paper aims to provide actionable insights that will guide India's path to becoming a developed nation by 2047.

1.1. Pillars of Development

India's economic growth and industrialization have been driven by a series of pivotal economic policies and reforms. The economic liberalization of 1991 was a watershed moment, marking a shift from a predominantly socialist economy to a market-driven one. These reforms included the deregulation of industries, reduction of import tariffs, and the encouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI), which collectively spurred economic growth and diversification. In recent years, the "Make in India" initiative, launched in 2014, has been instrumental in



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promoting manufacturing and reducing dependency on imports. This initiative aims to transform India into a global manufacturing hub by improving infrastructure, easing business regulations, and fostering innovation. As a result, sectors like automotive, electronics, and pharmaceuticals have seen significant growth, contributing to the overall industrial development of the country (Government of India, 2024).

The advent of Digital India in 2015 marked a significant leap in India's technological landscape, aiming to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and increasing Internet connectivity. This initiative has laid the groundwork for a burgeoning digital economy, catalyzing the adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and blockchain. The government's emphasis on developing a robust R&D and innovation ecosystem is reflected in the establishment of innovation hubs and technology parks across the country, which are designed to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government institutions. These efforts have positioned India as a leader in the global IT and software services sector, with a growing presence in the development of cutting-edge technologies (NASSCOM, 2022).

Social development in India has seen considerable advancements, particularly in the realms of education, healthcare, and social welfare. Government initiatives like the Right to Education Act (2009) have significantly improved literacy rates and access to primary education across the country. Similarly, the Ayushman Bharat scheme, launched in 2018, represents one of the world's largest government-funded healthcare programs, providing free healthcare to over 500 million citizens. These programs, along with targeted poverty alleviation schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), have played a critical role in reducing inequality and lifting millions out of poverty. However, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring equitable access to these benefits across different regions and communities (World Bank, 2021).

India's commitment to environmental sustainability is increasingly evident in its efforts to combat climate change and promote renewable energy. As one of the signatories of the Paris Agreement, India has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions intensity by 33-35% from 2005



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levels by 2030. The country has also set ambitious targets for renewable energy, aiming to achieve 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar energy alone. The expansion of solar and wind energy projects, along with initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), highlights India's leadership in promoting sustainable energy solutions. Despite these efforts, the challenges of balancing economic growth with environmental preservation remain significant, requiring continued innovation and policy support (International Energy Agency, 2022).

2. Conceptual Background

Since gaining independence in 1947, India has undergone a transformative journey characterized by significant milestones in its development. The post-independence era was marked by an initial focus on nation-building, with the implementation of the Five-Year Plans designed to address economic challenges and promote industrialization. The Green Revolution of the 1960s was a crucial turning point, leading to self-sufficiency in food production and laying the foundation for agricultural growth. The economic liberalization of 1991 stands as another key milestone, which ushered in a new era of market-driven growth, opening India's economy to global markets and investments. This reform accelerated GDP growth and paved the way for India's emergence as a major global player in information technology and services. India's achievements in space exploration, particularly the successful launch of the Mars Orbiter Mission in 2013, demonstrated its capabilities in cutting-edge science and technology. However, these milestones were accompanied by significant challenges. The country has grappled with persistent issues of poverty, inequality, and regional disparities, which have posed obstacles to inclusive growth. The socio-political landscape has also been marked by challenges such as communal tensions, corruption, and governance issues that have sometimes hindered progress. Lessons learned from these experiences highlight the importance of resilience, adaptability, and sustained efforts in overcoming challenges. For instance, the Green Revolution taught the importance of innovation and self-reliance in critical sectors, while the liberalization period emphasized the need for economic reforms and global integration to drive growth. These lessons are invaluable as India charts its course toward 2047, ensuring that the successes of the past inform the strategies of the future (Khush et al., 2024).



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2.1. Governance and Institutional Framework

India's development trajectory towards 2047 hinges significantly on the strengthening of its democratic institutions and governance structures. As the world's largest democracy, India's political stability and institutional robustness are foundational to its progress. Strengthening democratic institutions involves ensuring the independence and efficiency of the judiciary, enhancing the capacities of legislative bodies, and promoting active civic participation. The Election Commission of India, for instance, has played a pivotal role in upholding the integrity of the electoral process, ensuring free and fair elections. These efforts are crucial in maintaining public trust and confidence in democratic governance (Sen, 2020). Policy-making plays a central role in shaping India's future, guiding the country's economic, social, and environmental strategies. Effective policy-making requires a well-coordinated approach that includes consultation with stakeholders, evidence-based decision-making, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Policies such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have been instrumental in streamlining economic processes and improving the ease of doing business in India. Moreover, policies aimed at social welfare, like the National Education Policy 2020, reflect the government's commitment to inclusive growth and human capital development (Bhattacharya et al., 2021).

Transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures are critical to the integrity and effectiveness of governance. Corruption has long been a challenge in India, undermining public trust and hindering equitable development. In recent years, there have been concerted efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in government operations. The implementation of the Right to Information Act (RTI) in 2005 has empowered citizens to demand greater transparency in government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, has significantly reduced opportunities for corruption by minimizing human intervention and ensuring direct delivery of services to beneficiaries (Transparency International, 2022). These measures, coupled with stricter enforcement of anti-corruption laws, are essential in creating a governance framework that is both effective and trustworthy.



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2.2. Global Positioning and Strategic Partnerships

India's role in the global economy and its diplomatic engagements have significantly evolved, positioning the country as a key player on the international stage. As one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, India has increasingly asserted its influence in global economic forums such as the G20, BRICS, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The country's economic diplomacy has been bolstered by its large market size, a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and strategic trade agreements. India's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), despite its eventual withdrawal, highlighted the complexities of balancing domestic interests with global integration. India's economic diplomacy is also evident in its leadership in advocating for a rules-based international order, which promotes fair trade practices and economic cooperation among nations (Saran, 2020). Strategic alliances and partnerships have been crucial in enhancing India's global positioning. India has cultivated strong bilateral relationships with key global powers, including the United States, the European Union, Japan, and Russia, among others. The Indo-U.S. relationship, particularly, has deepened in recent years, encompassing areas such as defense, counter-terrorism, and technology collaboration, as evidenced by the signing of the India-U.S. defense agreements like COMCASA and BECA. Additionally, India's Act East policy aims to strengthen ties with ASEAN countries, fostering economic, cultural, and strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. These alliances are not only important for economic and defense cooperation but also for addressing global challenges such as climate change and international security (Pant et al., 2021).

India's contributions to global peace and development have been substantial, reflecting its longstanding commitment to international cooperation and humanitarian principles. India has been one of the largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions, with Indian troops playing a vital role in maintaining peace and stability in conflict zones around the world. Moreover, India's approach to development diplomacy, particularly through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the India-Africa Forum Summit, underscores its role in promoting sustainable development and South-South cooperation. India's efforts to provide vaccines and medical supplies to several countries during the COVID-19 pandemic further



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demonstrate its commitment to global health and solidarity (Hall et al., 2022). These contributions are integral to India's vision of being a responsible global power that not only advances its national interests but also contributes to global peace, security, and development.

3. Research Methodology

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to explore and analyze the critical factors influencing India's developmental trajectory as it moves towards the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The study aims to identify the key pillars of development, assess the effectiveness of governance structures, and evaluate India's global positioning and strategic partnerships. The research seeks to uncover the challenges and potential roadblocks that may hinder the realization of this ambitious vision. The ultimate goal is to propose a strategic roadmap that aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative, offering actionable insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

Research Design

The research design adopted for this study is a descriptive and analytical framework. This design was chosen because it allows for a detailed examination of existing data and the identification of patterns, relationships, and trends that are critical for understanding India's path to development. The study employs qualitative methods to ensure a well-rounded analysis. The qualitative aspect involves an in-depth review of existing literature, policy documents, and reports etc.

Data Collection

Data collection for this study was conducted using a secondary source. The data was obtained from various sources, including government reports, policy documents, academic journals, and reputable online databases. This secondary data provided a historical context and a broader understanding of the factors influencing India's development. The use of multiple data sources ensured the triangulation of data, enhancing the credibility and robustness of the research findings.



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4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This study employs qualitative methods to examine India's progress toward the Viksit Bharat **2047** vision. Drawing from secondary data sources, such as literature reviews, policy documents, academic articles, and media reports, the analysis extracts key themes and narratives that illuminate India's developmental trajectory. This includes a detailed assessment of governance frameworks, which revealed both successes in policy implementation and persistent inefficiencies, especially in addressing regional disparities and resource constraints. The data highlighted how strategic partnerships, both domestic and international, play a critical role in shaping India's development, particularly in areas such as technology, infrastructure, and healthcare. Furthermore, demographic pressures such as population growth and urbanization emerged as critical factors influencing resource allocation and governance challenges. Environmental concerns, including climate change and sustainable resource management, were also identified as significant hurdles in India's path toward development. By interpreting these themes within the historical and global context, the study offers a nuanced understanding of the obstacles and opportunities that India faces. The interconnectedness of developmental pillars, such as economic growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability, underscores the need for a holistic and adaptive approach to achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. This interpretation suggests that innovative and flexible strategies will be essential for overcoming the identified challenges and ensuring long-term, sustainable progress.

4.1. Challenges and Potential Roadblocks

As India embarks on its journey towards achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, it faces several critical challenges that could impede its progress. One of the foremost challenges is the burgeoning population, which puts immense pressure on resources, infrastructure, and public services. Managing this demographic challenge requires comprehensive planning in areas such as urbanization, healthcare, education, and employment. Additionally, economic disparities across regions and communities pose significant hurdles to achieving inclusive growth. Bridging the urban-rural divide and ensuring equitable distribution of resources and opportunities will be crucial to fostering balanced development. Another major challenge lies



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in the area of environmental sustainability. Rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to significant environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity. Addressing these issues while pursuing economic growth will require innovative solutions and stringent regulatory frameworks. Moreover, the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and shifting agricultural patterns, add another layer of complexity to India's development plans. Political and social stability are also essential for sustained progress. However, issues such as communal tensions, corruption, and governance inefficiencies can undermine stability and hinder effective policy implementation. Ensuring transparency, accountability, and good governance across all levels of government will be vital in maintaining public trust and fostering a conducive environment for development.

To mitigate these risks, India must adopt a multi-pronged strategy. This includes enhancing the capacity of its institutions to manage demographic pressures, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and promoting inclusive economic policies that address regional disparities. Strengthening environmental regulations and promoting green technologies will be crucial in balancing growth with sustainability. Additionally, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and civic participation will help reinforce democratic values and ensure that governance is both effective and responsive to the needs of the people. By addressing these challenges head-on, India can pave the way towards realizing its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

India must also contend with the rapidly evolving global economic landscape, which poses both opportunities and risks for its development. Globalization and technological advancements have transformed industries, demanding greater adaptability and innovation from developing economies like India. The integration of artificial intelligence, automation, and digital platforms is reshaping sectors such as manufacturing, services, and agriculture. While these advancements have the potential to drive growth and improve productivity, they also present the risk of exacerbating existing inequalities, particularly in terms of employment and skill development. India's large, unskilled labor force faces the threat of displacement by automation, making it imperative to invest in upskilling and reskilling initiatives that prepare workers for the demands of a digital economy. Furthermore, the digital divide, especially in



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rural and underserved regions, needs to be addressed to ensure that the benefits of technologydriven growth are equitably distributed across the population. Strengthening India's digital infrastructure and promoting digital literacy will be key in enabling all citizens to participate in and benefit from the evolving global economy.

Another significant challenge relates to India's geopolitical positioning in a rapidly shifting global order. As a major emerging economy, India must navigate complex international relations, trade dynamics, and security concerns. The rise of protectionism and shifting trade alliances, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has disrupted global supply chains and highlighted the importance of self-reliance. While India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) initiative aims to reduce dependency on imports and strengthen domestic industries, it also requires careful balancing with global trade partnerships to ensure continued access to international markets and investments. Additionally, regional tensions, especially with neighboring countries, present security challenges that could divert attention and resources from developmental goals. India's strategic partnerships with major global powers, its role in multilateral organizations, and its ability to maintain regional stability will be crucial in ensuring a favorable environment for economic growth. Addressing these geopolitical challenges requires a deft diplomatic approach, robust defense capabilities, and a focus on fostering regional cooperation and stability. By strengthening its global position and ensuring both internal and external security, India can create an environment conducive to achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

5. Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

As India approaches the centenary of its independence, the Vision 2047 initiative presents an ambitious and comprehensive blueprint for transforming the nation into a developed and self-reliant global power. The journey toward Viksit Bharat is both a reflection on the progress made since 1947 and a forward-looking strategy to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Through targeted initiatives in economic growth, technological advancement, social equity, environmental sustainability, and governance, India is poised to build on its strengths and overcome persistent challenges. The roadmap emphasizes the importance of inclusive growth, ensuring that the benefits of development reach every citizen, regardless of region or



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socio-economic status. The success of this vision, however, is contingent upon the collective efforts of all sectors of society. The government's role in policy-making and governance will be crucial, but equally important will be the contributions of the private sector, civil society, and individuals. By fostering innovation, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting sustainable practices, India can not only achieve its national goals but also make significant contributions to global challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and technological disruption. As the nation embarks on this transformative journey, the Vision 2047 initiative serves as both a guide and a call to action for all stakeholders to work together in creating a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future for India and its people. The path to 2047 is fraught with challenges, but with determination, resilience, and a shared vision, India can fulfill its promise and emerge as a leading force on the world stage.

Indicator	Current Value	Projected Value by 2047	Source/Reference	Implications for Viksit Bharat 2047
Population (in billion)	1.42	1.65	United Nations Population Division	Increased pressure on resources, infrastructure, and public services.
Urbanization Rate (%)	34	50	World Bank	Need for improved urban planning, infrastructure, and services.
GDP Growth Rate (%)	6.1	8.0 (targeted)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Sustained growth required for achieving developed nation status.
Poverty Rate (%)	22	5	NITI Aayog	Poverty reduction essential for inclusive growth.

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Renewable Energy Share (%)	23	50	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	Transition towards sustainable energy sources to reduce environmental degradation.
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	3.5	National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)	Focus on job creation, especially with technological disruptions in industries.
Digital Literacy (%)	35	80	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Essential for enabling all citizens to benefit from a digital economy.
Climate Change Vulnerability Index (Score)	High	Medium	National Climate Vulnerability Assessment	Addressing climate change to reduce extreme weather events and environmental impacts.
Infrastructure Quality Index (Score)	62.4	80	World Economic Forum	Enhancing infrastructure critical for sustainable growth and development.
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (in \$ billion)	50	120	Reserve Bank of India	Boosting FDI to promote economic resilience and technological innovation.



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5.1. Vision 2047: Roadmap to Achieving Viksit Bharat

The Vision 2047 roadmap is a strategic blueprint aimed at transforming India into a developed nation by the time it celebrates 100 years of independence. Central to this vision are key initiatives and programs that address the nation's most pressing needs. Initiatives like the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission are crucial in this regard. The NIP focuses on significantly upgrading India's infrastructure, including sectors such as transportation, energy, and water management, which are vital for economic growth. The Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, on the other hand, emphasizes self-reliance by promoting domestic manufacturing and reducing dependency on imports, thereby enhancing India's industrial capabilities and economic resilience. The roadmap is structured with both short-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals include accelerating economic growth, improving the ease of doing business, and making rapid progress in sectors like healthcare, education, and digital infrastructure. These goals are designed to create a foundation for sustainable development, ensuring that India is well-equipped to handle future challenges. In the longterm, the vision aims to achieve a high standard of living for all citizens, with universal access to quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Additionally, the long-term goals include making India a global leader in technology, innovation, and sustainable development, thus ensuring that the country not only meets its own needs but also contributes positively to global challenges.

The success of Vision 2047 depends on the active participation of the private sector, civil society, and individuals. The private sector plays a pivotal role in driving innovation, investment, and job creation, making it a key partner in the nation's development. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations and community groups, is essential for ensuring that development is inclusive and reaches all sections of society, especially the marginalized. Individuals, too, have a critical role to play by adopting sustainable practices, participating in civic activities, and contributing to the nation's economic and social fabric. Collectively, these stakeholders must work in harmony to realize the ambitious goals set out in Vision 2047, ensuring that India's development is both equitable and sustainable.



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5.2. Recommendations

- Strengthening Institutional Capacities: To realize the Vision 2047 goals, India must prioritize enhancing the capacity of its institutions, particularly in areas such as governance, law enforcement, and public service delivery. Ensuring that institutions are well-equipped to implement policies effectively and transparently is essential. This includes strengthening local governance systems, improving bureaucratic efficiency, and leveraging digital technologies to enhance public service delivery. Furthermore, a continuous focus on accountability and transparency in governance will be critical for maintaining public trust and ensuring the success of developmental initiatives.
- **Promoting Inclusive Growth**: Economic development must be inclusive, addressing the disparities between urban and rural regions, and ensuring that marginalized communities are not left behind. To bridge the urban-rural divide, India should invest in rural infrastructure, promote agricultural innovation, and provide targeted support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Policies should also focus on improving access to quality education and healthcare in rural and underserved areas. Furthermore, specific interventions are needed to address gender disparities and promote the inclusion of women in the workforce, which will play a vital role in driving economic growth and social progress.
- Fostering Innovation and Skill Development: To remain competitive in the global economy, India must continue to promote innovation, particularly in the fields of technology, manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. This requires increasing investments in research and development (R&D) and fostering public-private partnerships to drive technological advancements. Additionally, addressing the skill gap by scaling up vocational training programs, improving access to quality higher education, and promoting digital literacy across all sectors of society will be essential for equipping the workforce with the skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.



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- Strengthening Environmental Sustainability: Environmental sustainability must be at the core of India's development agenda. To balance economic growth with environmental conservation, India should strengthen regulatory frameworks, promote the use of green technologies, and encourage industries to adopt sustainable practices. This includes expanding renewable energy capacity, improving waste management systems, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, India should prioritize climate change adaptation strategies, particularly for vulnerable regions facing the impacts of extreme weather events and shifting agricultural patterns. Policies should also focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting energy efficiency in industries, transportation, and urban planning.
- Enhancing Global Partnerships and Regional Stability: India must continue to build strong diplomatic ties and strategic partnerships that promote economic cooperation, security, and technology transfer. As global trade dynamics shift, India should actively engage in multilateral organizations and pursue regional stability through diplomatic channels. By fostering strong relationships with global powers, particularly in areas of defense, technology, and trade, India can secure its position as a global leader. Additionally, ensuring regional stability and resolving tensions with neighboring countries will be essential for creating a conducive environment for economic growth and development.
- Prioritizing Social Cohesion and Governance Reforms: To ensure that the path to Viksit Bharat 2047 is stable, India must prioritize social cohesion by addressing issues such as communal tensions, corruption, and governance inefficiencies. Reforms aimed at reducing bureaucratic red tape, increasing transparency, and promoting good governance practices across all levels of government will be critical. Moreover, promoting civic participation and fostering a culture of accountability in public institutions will help maintain public trust and ensure the successful implementation of developmental policies. Engaging communities in development processes and ensuring that their voices are heard will be crucial for sustaining social and political stability.



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6. Conclusion

India's historical achievements and lessons from the past, such as the Green Revolution and economic liberalization of 1991, serve as important pillars to inform future strategies. However, challenges like rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, population pressure, and geopolitical tensions require adaptive and innovative responses. India's roadmap toward 2047 calls for a multi-faceted approach that integrates economic reforms, social welfare initiatives, environmental regulations, and enhanced governance structures to ensure equitable development for all citizens. Strengthening institutional capacities, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering innovation in digital and manufacturing sectors are crucial to maintaining global competitiveness and fostering domestic resilience. Moreover, India's engagement in international diplomacy and strategic partnerships will play a significant role in addressing global challenges such as climate change and economic inequality. Ultimately, the success of Viksit Bharat 2047 will depend on collective efforts from all sectors-government, private, civil society, and individuals. With sustained progress and an adaptive, inclusive strategy, India is poised to not only achieve its national goals but also contribute meaningfully to global peace, security, and development. The vision reflects a call to action for India's citizens and leadership to work in harmony towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

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