

Towards Viksit Bharat: The Youth-Led Movement Shaping India's Future

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Abstract:

India, a nation of 1.4 billion people, holds vast resources including human talent, mineral wealth, and advanced technology that essential for becoming a developed nation. However, its potential remains underutilized due to challenges in resource management. The "Viksit Bharat 2047" initiative, launched by the Government of India, addresses these issues through a strategic plan focusing on economic growth, technological leadership, social progress, environmental sustainability, good governance and sustainable development. By empowering the country's youth through education, skill-building, and innovation, programs like Skill India, Digital India, and Startup India aim to drive inclusive growth. Through the energy and creativity of its youth, Viksit Bharat aspires to build a prosperous, resilient India that plays a prominent role on the global stage. This study examines the crucial role of the youth in shaping India's future, highlighting how their innovation, dynamism, and determination drive the nation toward prosperity and progress.

Keywords: Digital India, Dynamism, Prosperity, Underutilized, Technological.

Introduction

India is a nation of 1.4 billion people, with diverse cultures, languages, religions, and aspirations. It is also a nation that faces many challenges, such as poverty, inequality, illiteracy, health issues, and environmental degradation.

Over the course of our childhood, many of us hoped that India would one day be able to move beyond the status of a "developing nation." We heard the same statements over and over again, questioning why India was so far behind what other countries were achieving. People frequently responded with two common points: India's large population living below the poverty line and the need to raise our GDP to meet the standards set by so-called "developed nations." How can the government of India address these challenges and ensure the welfare and development of every citizen? The answer lies in the Viksit Bharat.

Viksit Bharat@2047 represents the Government of India's vision to transform India into a developed nation by the year 2047, coinciding with the centenary of its independence. This vision encompasses multiple facets of development, such as economic growth, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance. As India stands at a pivotal moment in its growth journey, it is crucial to recognize the immense dedication, belief in the nation's potential, and the remarkable talent and capabilities of its people—especially the youth. With youth comprising 66 percent of the population, their contribution is vital in steering India toward the Viksit Bharat goal by 2047. It is essential to harness their innovative ideas for nation-building by encouraging their participation in this vision. Engaging young people, particularly those in colleges and universities, is crucial for this national initiative. To ensure success, outreach programs must reach every young individual across the country. Only through the collective efforts of the youth can India aspire to emerge as a global leader in sectors such as the economy, technology, infrastructure, education, and social welfare.

The concept of "Viksit Bharat@2047" gained significant momentum in the 2020s, especially as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders emphasized a strategic roadmap to establish India as a fully developed nation by the 100th anniversary of its independence. This vision represents an ambitious national objective set by the Government of India, aiming to transform the country into a developed nation by 2047. It is grounded in a comprehensive plan that seeks to strengthen India's economy, enhance technological and industrial capabilities, uplift social standards, and ensure sustainable development. To achieve the status of a developed nation, several areas need improvement.

Key milestones need to be achieved for making Bharat a Viksit Bharat:

- 1. Economic Growth and \$10 Trillion Economy Goal:** The "Viksit Bharat@2047" vision aims for India to achieve a \$10 trillion economy by its centenary, focusing on inclusive growth across urban and rural areas. Key initiatives include industrial expansion, enhanced infrastructure, digitalization, and supportive regulations, with programs like Make in India promoting local manufacturing and reducing import reliance.
 - 2. Technological Leadership in AI, Space, and Biotechnology:** "Viksit Bharat 2047" aims to position India as a technology leader by advancing artificial intelligence, space exploration, and biotechnology. It emphasizes investments in R&D, education, and partnerships. Key initiatives include ISRO's advancements in satellite technology, lunar exploration, and enhancing biotechnology to meet healthcare and agricultural needs, empowering various sectors.
 - 3. Global Manufacturing Hub and Self-Reliance:** The initiative to transform India into a global manufacturing hub aims to reduce import dependence and enhance exports. Through Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the government incentivizes manufacturers, improves infrastructure, and targets sectors like electronics and textiles, fostering job creation and strengthening India's global economic position.
 - 4. Eradication of Poverty, 100% Literacy, and Universal Healthcare for Social Upliftment:** The "Viksit Bharat 2047" mission aims to eliminate poverty, achieve 100% literacy, and ensure universal healthcare. By implementing targeted welfare programs and educational reforms, it seeks to enhance social development, improve access to housing, jobs, and healthcare, and create a healthier, more educated India.
 - 5. Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection:** Sustainability is integral to "Viksit Bharat 2047," with a focus on promoting green energy, reducing carbon emissions, and conserving resources. India aims to boost solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, supported by the National Solar Mission and National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy. Environmental efforts include afforestation, clean water initiatives, and pollution control for future generations.
 - 6. International Role in Geopolitics and Global Leadership:** By 2047, India aims to enhance its global influence in geopolitics, climate action, and governance. The vision includes asserting its role in organizations like the UN and WTO, promoting regional stability, advocating for reforms in international institutions, and demonstrating commitment to sustainability in climate negotiations as a responsible global leader.
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- 7. Youth Empowerment through Skill Development and Digital Initiatives:** Empowering youth is crucial to "Viksit Bharat 2047," harnessing India's young population's potential. Initiatives like Skill India and Startup India provide vocational training, digital literacy, and entrepreneurial support, fostering innovation and creating a dynamic ecosystem for youth to drive the nation's progress and establish India as a hub for creativity and technology.
 - 8. Doubling Farmers' Income and Agricultural Reforms:** The agricultural sector, vital for India's economy, employs 43% of the population and contributes 19% to GDP. "Viksit Bharat 2047" aims to double farmers' incomes through advanced farming techniques, better credit access, improved supply chains, and digital market information, while promoting organic practices for sustainable rural prosperity and food security.
 - 9. Digital India and Technology Access:** The Digital India initiative is essential for creating a digitally empowered society, laying the groundwork for "Viksit Bharat 2047." It promotes affordable internet access, digital literacy, and the adoption of technology across sectors, fostering inclusivity, supporting startups, and transforming India into a knowledge-based economy.
 - 10. Green Energy Transition and Achieving Net-Zero Emissions:** India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 marks a significant environmental milestone. Through the "Viksit Bharat 2047" initiative, the country is investing in renewable energy, including solar and wind projects, while promoting electric mobility and eco-friendly manufacturing. This transition fosters job creation and supports sustainable development.
 - 11. Good Governance and Effective Public Service Delivery:** Good governance is always essential for overall development of a nation. Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 requires good governance through transparent institutions, effective policy-making, and efficient public services. Initiatives like e-Governance and DBT aim to reduce corruption and ensure benefits reach citizens. This vision emphasizes participatory governance, citizen engagement, strong institutions, and the rule of law to enhance democracy.
 - 12. Bridging Urban-Rural Divides and Inclusive Development:** The Viksit Bharat initiative aims to bridge the urban-rural divide through equitable development. It focuses on enhancing rural infrastructure, access to clean water, healthcare, and internet connectivity, while creating jobs to improve quality of life. Key initiatives include Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and rural electrification projects.
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Role of Youth in making Bharat a Viksit Bharat:

The empowerment of youth is fundamental in the endeavor to elevate India to the status of a developed nation. Through the strategic initiative of “Viksit Yuva, Viksit Bharat,” the country is concentrating on leveraging the capabilities of its young professionals.

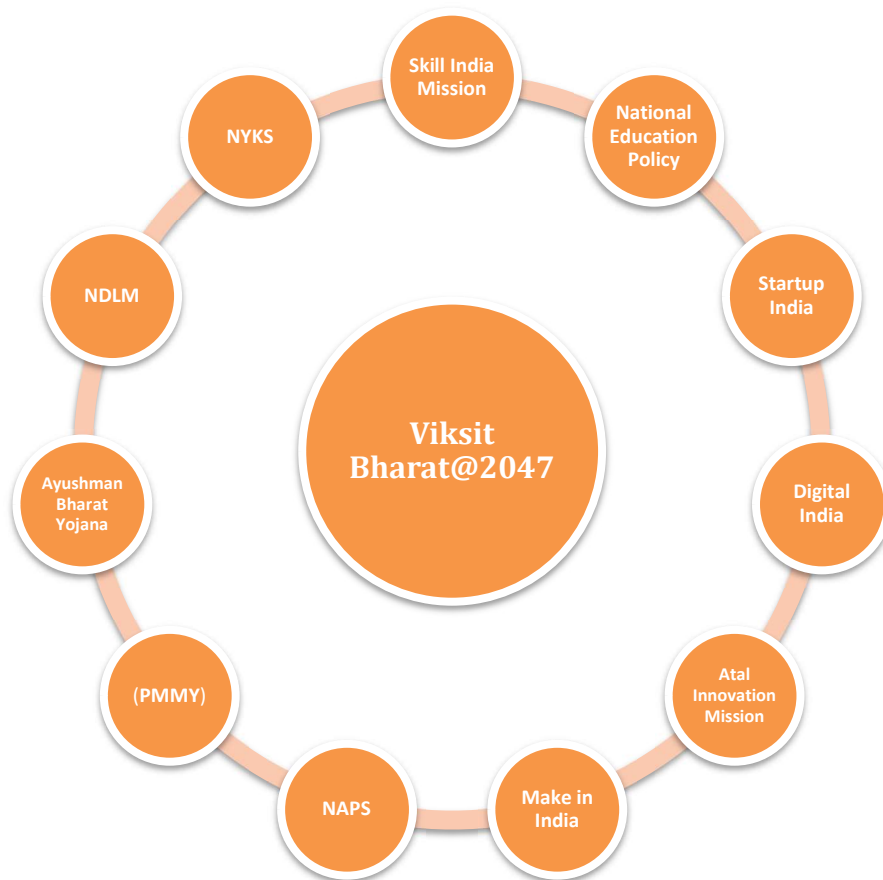
- 1. Empowering Youth for Nation Building:** Youth form the most dynamic and productive segment of society, crucially impacting a country's growth potential. With proper investment in education, health, and rights, a large youth population—especially in developing nations like India—presents immense opportunities for progress. However, factors like unemployment, inadequate skills, and gender inequality continue to hinder youth potential. The "Viksit Bharat" initiative addresses these challenges by empowering young people through education, skill development, and mentorship. Youth are emerging as agents of change, bringing innovative solutions to national challenges and leading initiatives in entrepreneurship and community development. Through focused efforts, "Viksit Bharat" aims to foster a generation that actively contributes to India's journey toward becoming a prosperous and resilient nation.
- 2. Youth-led social initiatives for Community development:** According to the International Labour Organization, 66% of India's population—over 808 million people—are under the age of 35, making India home to the largest youth population globally. Over the next decade, India's workforce will grow substantially as young people enter the labor market. To maximize employment potential, young people should focus on secondary and tertiary sectors, which employ 17.6% and 25.1% of the workforce, respectively, and together contribute approximately 54% of India's GDP. The Viksit Bharat framework empowers youth-driven social projects by offering funding and institutional support, enabling impactful community initiatives that improve quality of life. These initiatives harness the energy, creativity, and commitment of young people, fostering civic engagement and paving the way for a fairer, more sustainable future through grassroots activism, digital campaigns, and innovative solutions.

Government Policies and Initiatives Supporting Youth for Making Bharat a Viksit Bharat

The Indian government has launched various policies to empower youth and leverage their potential in transforming India into a developed nation. Spanning across education, skill development, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, health, and employment, these policies aim to equip young people with essential skills and opportunities, increasing their employability. Under the Viksit Bharat vision, youth-focused initiatives are pivotal for shaping the nation's future. Programs like Skill India, Make in India, and Digital India emphasize enhancing skills and digital competencies, while Startup India and Stand-Up India support young entrepreneurs with

funding and mentorship. Together, these initiatives foster innovation, self-reliance, and entrepreneurship among youth, preparing them to contribute effectively to India's economic growth and development. The Figure 2 shows the budget allocated for education and Figure 3 shows the Expenditure (in Crores) incurred under various skill development schemes by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Figure: 1



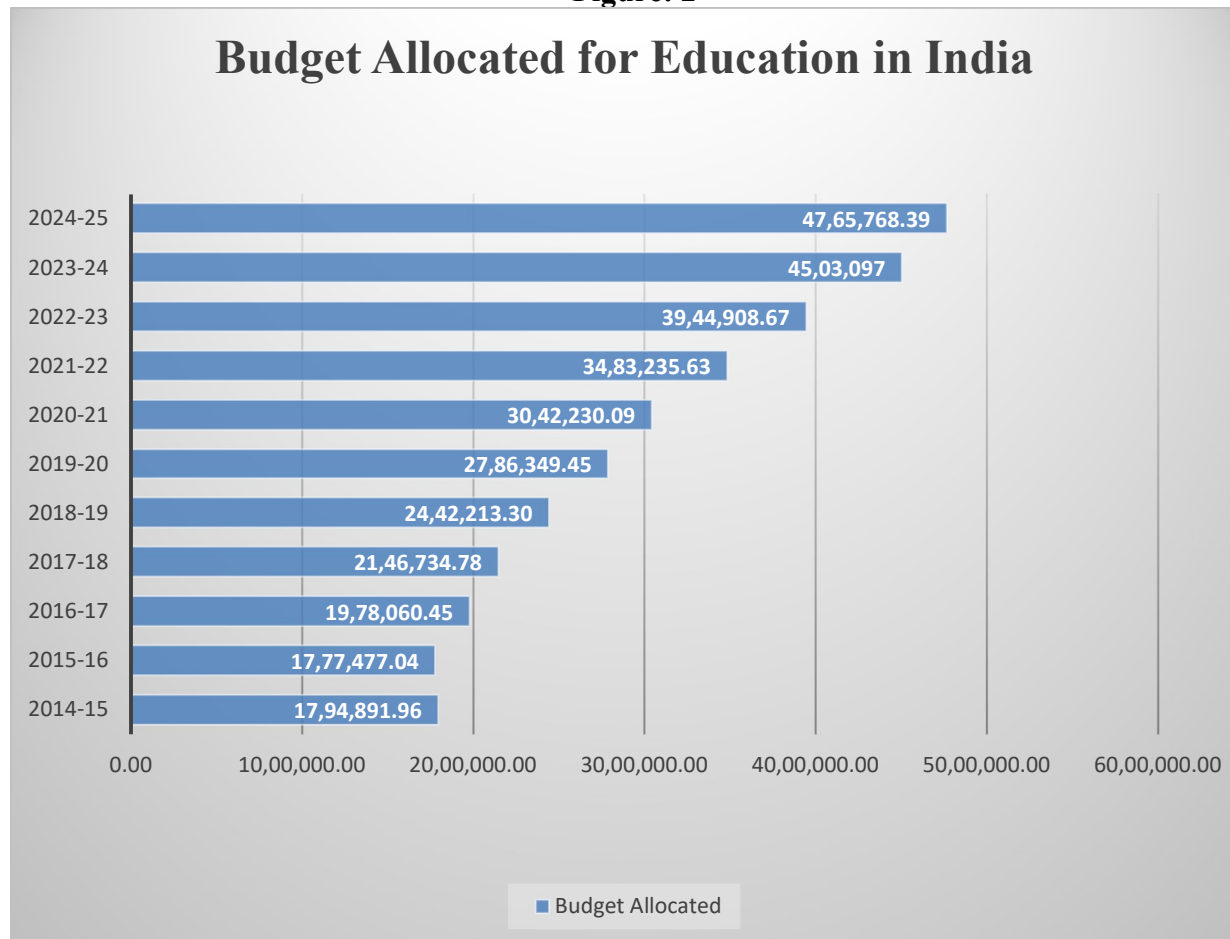
- 1. Skill India Mission:** The Skill India Mission aims to boost youth employability by offering upskilling opportunities in critical digital and manufacturing sectors, supporting Make in India and Digital India. Through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), over 20 million youth have been trained across various sectors since 2015.

2. **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** This scheme aims to transform India's education system, emphasizing skill-based learning to meet modern challenges. It ensures a more skilled and knowledgeable youth population, aligned with the demands of a developed, modern economy.
 3. **Startup India Initiative:** The initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship and job creation among youth through incentives like tax exemptions, simplified regulations, and funding support. By 2023, over 98,000 startups have been recognized, including more than 50 unicorns, many led by young entrepreneurs. This has generated over 650,000 jobs, fostering innovation and reducing dependence on traditional sectors, positioning India as a global startup hub.
 4. **Digital India Initiative:** The scheme aims to create a digitally empowered society, providing access to digital resources and job opportunities in IT, e-governance, and digital services. Over 500,000 Common Service Centers (CSCs) have been set up, supporting rural youth and driving India's \$1 trillion digital economy goal by 2025.
 5. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** The Atal Innovation Mission promotes innovation and entrepreneurship among students by establishing Atal Tinkering Labs and Incubation Centers. Over 10,000 labs have been set up in schools, providing 4 million students with hands-on experience.
 6. **Make in India:** Launched to make India a global manufacturing hub, the initiative has attracted significant FDI, increasing from \$35 billion in 2014 to \$83 billion in 2022. It has created over 10 million jobs, providing youth with opportunities in diverse manufacturing sectors.
 7. **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** The scheme provides young people with hands-on experience, enhancing employability, especially in manufacturing, construction, and IT. It promotes apprenticeship as a pathway to employment by offering financial support to industries hiring apprentices. Since 2016, over 1 million apprentices have been trained, with a target of 5 million by 2025.
 8. **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):** The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) promotes youth-led entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas, reducing migration and fostering local job creation. Since 2015, it has disbursed over ₹19 lakh crore through 34 crore loans, with over 60% benefiting young entrepreneurs. MSMEs, supported by PMMY, contribute over 30% to India's GDP.
 9. **Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-JAY):** PM-JAY provides health coverage to vulnerable populations, ensuring a healthy, productive workforce. Over 500 million people have benefited, improving healthcare access for lower-income families. As of September 2023, the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has generated employment for 56,171 people, with an investment of ₹25,813 crore.
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10. National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM): The scheme aims to bridge the digital divide by providing digital literacy to 60 million rural citizens. As of 2023, over 40 million rural citizens, with a strong focus on youth, have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).

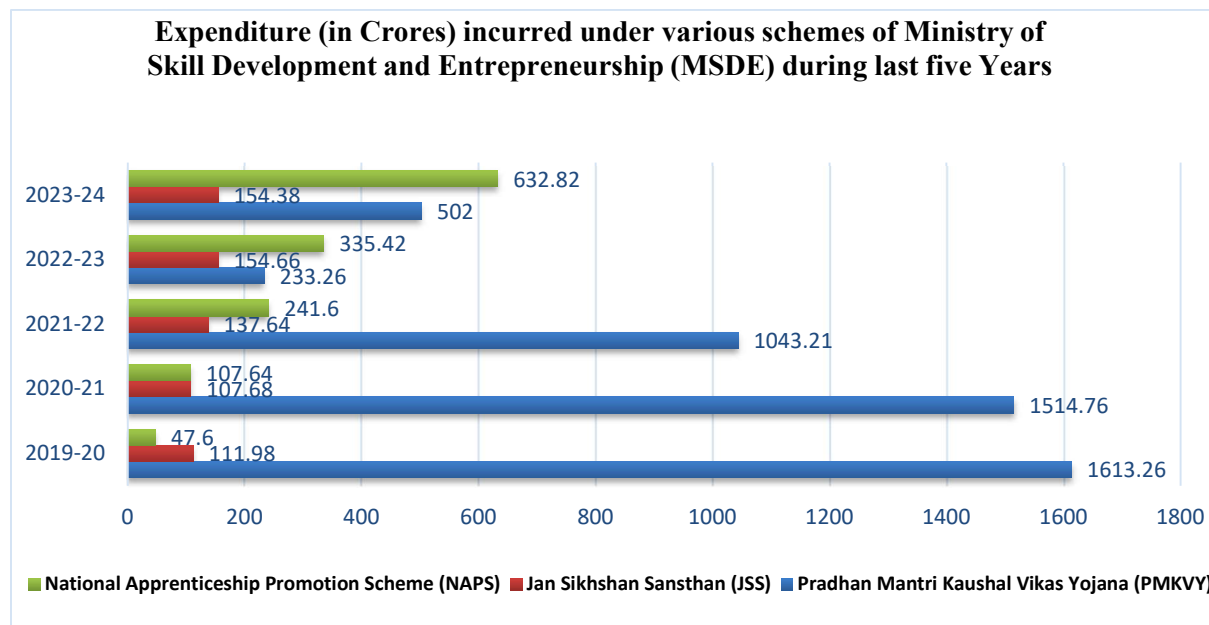
Youth in Governance: Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS): The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) scheme engages youth in community development, leadership, and civic activities. With over 100,000 youth clubs across India, it promotes social welfare, public awareness, and strengthens youth participation in governance. This fosters a civically engaged and responsible generation contributing to nation-building.

Figure: 2



Source: www.timesnownews.com/education/education-budget-in-india

Figure: 3



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2038368>

Conclusion:

Youth play a pivotal role in nation-building, especially in developing countries where they form a large portion of the population. Their energy, innovation, and adaptability make them essential contributors to economic growth, social reform, and technological advancement. With adequate education, skills, and opportunities, young people can drive positive change in various sectors, from industry to governance, and lead movements addressing critical issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability. In developing nations, where challenges like unemployment, illiteracy, and health disparities are prevalent, empowering the youth is essential. Programs focused on skill development, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship enable young people to generate employment, both for themselves and others, boosting economic productivity. Furthermore, youth engagement in civic and community activities promotes social cohesion and fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership. With their capacity for innovation, youth are also vital to technological progress, driving initiatives in sectors such as information technology, biotechnology, and renewable energy. When properly supported, they can develop home-grown solutions to local issues, contributing to self-reliance and reducing dependency on foreign resources. Ultimately, in a developing country, the youth's active participation is crucial for building a progressive, resilient, and inclusive society poised for sustainable development and Bharat i.e. India can only become Viksit Bharat by proper utilization of youths.

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