



## India at 100: A political science review of the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision

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### Abstract

The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision represents India's ambitious political and developmental aspiration to emerge as a developed nation by the centenary of its independence in 2047. This review examines the philosophical underpinnings, institutional implications, and policy frameworks surrounding this vision from a political science perspective. It situates the vision within historical debates on state development, institutional reform, democratic governance, human capital formation, and global leadership. Through a structured literature review, we highlight key debates in the academic and policy domains, identify research gaps, and propose future research directions. Drawing from both national policy documents and scholarly analyses, the article argues that Viksit Bharat 2047 transcends mere economic metrics to encompass inclusive governance, social equity, sustainable development, and enhanced global influence. Achieving this requires robust political institutions, effective public policy design, and participatory democratic processes. This review concludes by advocating for a multidimensional analytical framework that synthesizes political theory, governance studies, and development policy to assess India's progress toward this long-term goal.

Additionally, the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision must be examined through comparative and normative lenses to assess its feasibility and transformative potential. A political science inquiry necessitates evaluating the balance between centralized policy direction and federal autonomy, the role of civil society and digital governance, and the rapidly modernizing democracy. The success of this vision depends on strengthening cooperative federalism, ensuring transparency through technological innovation, and fostering participatory governance at local levels. By integrating institutional accountability with socioeconomic justice, the project of Viksit Bharat 2047 can evolve into a sustainable democratic model that aligns developmental ambition with constitutional values.

**Keywords:** Viksit Bharat 2047, India, political institutions, inclusive development, governance

### Introduction

India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047—coinciding with the 100th anniversary of its independence—is encapsulated in the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. This initiative is not limited to economic growth; it encompasses broader political and social transformations, including democratic deepening, institutional reforms, and global leadership. The emphasis on a Viksit Bharat indicates a strategic shift from short-term policy gains to long-term developmental goals supported by political science scholarship and public policy debates.

Conceptually, Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions India as a nation with high per capita income, world-class infrastructure, strong governance systems, equitable access to education and healthcare, and sustainable economic practices. However, the realization of this vision is deeply political: it involves reconfiguring state capacity, governance mechanisms, public accountability, and inclusive policy frameworks that integrate marginalized communities into national growth trajectories. Thus, the vision signifies not only an economic agenda but also a political project aimed at institutional transformation and democratic engagement.

This review article critically examines Viksit Bharat 2047 from a political science vantage point. It explores the theoretical underpinnings of development, historical policy continuities and discontinuities, governance challenges, and strategic imperatives necessary to achieve this vision. In doing so, we analyze existing literature, synthesize key debates, and identify gaps warranting future research.

Understanding Viksit Bharat 2047 requires engagement with development theory and political institutionalism.

Classical modernization theory posits that economic development is intertwined with political stability, democratic institutions, and socio-cultural change. From this perspective, political frameworks become integral to structuring developmental policies.

Political institutionalism highlights the role of formal and informal institutions in shaping developmental outcomes. Institutions—constitutions, legal frameworks, administrative structures, and governance bodies—mediate the relationship between state power and societal welfare. Effective institutions reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies, ensure accountability, and enhance policy implementation.

As emphasized in policy reviews of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, strengthening institutional capacity and governance systems is crucial for translating visions into tangible results. A political institutionalist perspective therefore examines how governance reforms, administrative modernization, and democratic accountability mechanisms contribute to developmental outcomes.

### Review Methodology

This article adopts a qualitative literature review methodology. We systematically surveyed academic and policy literature, including peer-reviewed journals, government strategy papers, conceptual articles, and published studies related to *Viksit Bharat 2047*. Databases such as Shodhganga, international journals, and policy think-tank publications were used to gather relevant materials.

Primary sources included research articles on Viksit Bharat policies, theoretical texts on development, and strategic

policy documents on India's 2047 vision. Secondary sources such as textbooks and seminal works in political theory (e.g., Sen's conceptualization of development) were also included to inform the theoretical framework.

### Review of Literature

- Sen, Amartya (1999) <sup>[5]</sup>. *Development as Freedom*. Oxford University Press. Sen redefines development not as GDP growth, but as the expansion of 'substantive freedoms' and human capabilities. He argues that political liberty and social opportunities are both the primary ends and the principal means of development. This foundational text shifts the focus from purely economic metrics to human-centric progress.
- Sen, Amartya (2005) <sup>[8]</sup>. *The Argumentative Indian*. Penguin Books. This book explores India's long-standing intellectual history of public debate, skepticism, and pluralism. Sen argues that India's democratic and secular foundations are rooted in a traditional culture of heterodoxy and open discussion. It highlights how this 'argumentative' heritage is essential for contemporary political stability and social justice.
- Patel, Vipin & Kumar, Rohit (2024) <sup>[1]</sup>. *VIKSIT BHARAT 2047: A Journey towards India's Future*. ShodhKosh Journal. The authors outline a transformative roadmap for India's centenary of independence. They emphasize a balanced growth model that integrates economic strength with social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The paper identifies innovation, skill development, and good governance as the critical pillars for achieving a knowledge-driven, 'Viksit' (developed) economy by 2047.
- Nikam, Supriya Sanjay & Kothe, Satyanarayan (2025) <sup>[10]</sup>. *Forging a Developed India: Growth Imperatives for Viksit Bharat 2047*. This research utilizes econometric modeling to examine fiscal and macroeconomic strategies. The authors argue that achieving a \$30 trillion economy requires disciplined fiscal management and strategic public-private partnerships. They highlight infrastructure, healthcare, and sustainable energy as the primary sectors for maximizing long-term growth and prosperity.
- Thakkar, N. Ramanlal (2024) <sup>[4]</sup>. *A Vision for 2047: The Indian Knowledge System and Education for a Viksit Bharat*. Vidhyayana E-Journal.

Thakkar explores the 'Indian Knowledge System' as a cultural and educational foundation for the 2047 vision. The study advocates for an education system that blends traditional Indian wisdom with modern technological advancement. It suggests that revitalizing indigenous intellectual traditions is key to fostering a unique and sustainable identity for a developed India.

### Conclusion

The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision represents a multifaceted political and developmental project that extends beyond economic indicators to encompass governance, inclusive policies, institutional reforms, sustainability, and global leadership. Reviewed literature indicates that India's longstanding developmental debates—rooted in historical policy frameworks—have culminated in a contemporary

aspiration that foregrounds political transformation alongside economic growth.

Analyzing Viksit Bharat through political science frameworks such as development as freedom and institutionalism reveals the importance of political accountability, governance capacity, and democratic engagement in achieving long-term goals. While existing literature provides valuable insights into conceptual and policy dimensions, significant research gaps remain, particularly in empirical evaluations of accountability mechanisms, state-level policy variations, and citizen participation.

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