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**Viksit Bharat 2047 and India's Higher Education: Challenges, Roadmap and Transformation****Hakeema Khatoon^{1*}**¹Department of Education, University of Ladakh, Ladakh, India

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Keywords:Viksit Bharat
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@2047**ABSTRACT**

Higher education plays a vital role in realizing or achieving the 'Viksit Bharat' (Develop India) vision by 2047. It acts as a catalyst for innovation, economic growth, and social progress by: promoting research and development, fostering a skilled workforce and ensuring inclusive access to quality education. Emphasizing exchange programs and global collaborations will prepare students to thrive in a globalized world and enrich educational experiences (Shukla, 2024). Fostering a culture of continuous improvement and by embracing evidence-based policies, India can mark its higher education sector or position as a global leader, driving sustainable socio-economic development, moreover fulfilling the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 (Dr. Swati Chawla et al. 2024). Paper explores the reforms and multi-dimensional role of India's higher education in achieving the vision or aim of Viksit Bharat 2047. Further explores the collaborative and strategic approach to address its multifaceted challenges and on transformative opportunities, addressing the infrastructure gap, alumni support and international collaboration in higher education, enhancing soft skills & interdisciplinary education, connecting education with industry needs. Various schemes/projects/programmes of Ministry of Education have been aligned with NEP 2020 to realize the vision of making India a developed Nation by @2047 thereby transforming education for a future-ready India by gaining knowledge and inputs from effective developmental techniques and worldwide best practices. Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, and knowledge makes you great -A.P.J.Abdul Kalam.

INTRODUCTION

In order to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047, higher education is crucial because it bears the primary responsibility of preparing future citizens and leaders with advanced skills and knowledge who will assume responsibility and contribute to nation-building and socio-economic development. From now on, the lessons imparted in higher education are crucial. In higher education, skill development is crucial for preparing students for gainful work. In order for us to confidently enter the economic year 2047, the Hon'ble Prime Minister should establish

"Atmanirbhar Bharat" by utilising numerous programs and ideas like Make in India, Start-up India, etc. The National Education Policy-2020 has stressed that in order for India to fully engage in the emerging global economy, it must establish a dozen or more universities that can compete on a worldwide scale. By creating highly qualified, educated, and mature thinkers with strong moral character a prerequisite for a Viksit Bharat: the endeavour aims to assist Indian higher education in reaching out to people who desire and seek higher education. The emphasis is on integrating or fostering research and innovation in higher

education, digital transformation in higher education, internationalization and globalization of higher education, and skill development. In order to create Viksit Bharat by 2047, Indian universities and higher education institutions must engage in a number of initiatives.

Viksit Bharat 2047 is a long-term national vision articulated by the Government of India to transform the country into a fully developed nation by the year 2047, marking 100 years of independence. The initiative reflects an aspirational roadmap that integrates economic, social, technological, environmental, and governance-related goals into a unified framework for sustainable development. Grounded in the principles of inclusivity, self-reliance, and global competitiveness, Viksit Bharat 2047 seeks to position India as a leading economic power while ensuring equitable growth for its diverse population. The vision emphasizes rapid industrialization, digital transformation, innovation-driven growth, and human capital development as catalysts for progress. At the same time, it prioritizes social welfare, quality healthcare, accessible education, environmental stewardship, and robust infrastructure to enhance overall quality of life. Importantly, the framework encourages participatory governance, recognizing that collective action from citizens, private enterprises, civil society, and government institutions will be essential for achieving the nation's developmental aspirations. By 2047, all Indian citizens would have access to the fundamental ideas of economic empowerment and employability, according to a pledge made by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The most marginalised and disadvantaged groups, such as India's socially and economically underprivileged communities, will also be covered. Viksit Bharat 2047 is more than just a catchphrase; it's a Sankalp, a determination that speaks to Indians, particularly the younger generation, who want a better future for their nation and themselves. Only the educational system makes everything possible. Education plays a crucial part in Viksit Bharat since we all work to improve the educational system at the field level. Additionally, we examine and support innovation, education, skill development, health, and the digital economy and technology-enabled development. AI, digital literacy, automation, tech skills, and technological innovation are all present. Technological developments will define the nature of work in the future. Those who accept opportunity prioritize lifelong learning and cultivate a blend of hard and soft talents. Financial, negotiating, and young leadership abilities are examples of soft talents. Additionally, women will receive information on drug and alcohol misuse, domestic violence, legal literacy, and self-defence. Computer skills, training for plumbers and electricians, beauty, culture, and other new

skills will all be connected to the occupational skills. India's economy is expanding at one of the quickest rates in the world, and it is headed towards being a developed country before 2047. To guarantee on-going development and progress, higher education should be dedicated. Viksit Bharat 2047 is more than just a catchphrase; it's a Sankalp, a determination that speaks to Indians, particularly the younger generation, who want a better future for their nation and themselves. If we establish robust networking and partnerships with various government agencies, autonomous organisations, and the private sector in addition to corporate organisations, Viksit Bharat 2047 will be accomplished even before 2047. Cutting-edge technologies like virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning will be more deeply integrated into educational delivery in the future. By offering immersive and interactive learning opportunities, these technologies will make education more interesting and tailored to each student's unique learning requirements. AI-powered systems, for instance, might provide individualized learning pathways that change in real time based on the student's development and comprehension. India hopes to transform its higher education system by 2047 into a world-class model of excellence that is open to all students and sensitive to the needs of a world that is changing quickly. Ten transformative developments that are taking place in India's higher education industry would describe this. As a comprehensive national agenda, Viksit Bharat 2047 provides a strategic direction for policy formulation and implementation in the coming decades. Exploring this initiative in academic research offers valuable insights into India's developmental trajectory, the challenges and opportunities ahead, and the broader implications for global development discourse.

REFORMS AND MULTI- DIMENSIONAL ROLE OF INDIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Higher education also plays a *crucial socio-economic role* in Viksit Bharat 2047. By expanding educational opportunities to marginalized and rural communities through digital infrastructure, community colleges, open universities, and targeted scholarships, India aims to reduce societal disparities and ensure inclusive development. Institutions are increasingly engaging in local development through outreach programs, skilling initiatives, and region-specific research, thereby strengthening the link between academia and community needs. Such efforts help create a skilled and socially conscious workforce capable of driving equitable growth. Earning a living was one of several secondary goals in education decades ago, with manufacturing being the main

focus. The emphasis is now on creating human capital in addition to manufacturing. This goal is to help the higher education system reach out to everyone. Higher education institutions will have more independent, transparent, and accountable governance. Reforms to regulations will guarantee quality and equity in education while promoting innovation and excellence. In order to ensure that students are well-prepared for both personal and professional problems, enhanced student support and well-being institutions will prioritize comprehensive support systems for students, with a focus on mental health, career counselling, and holistic development. The vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* positions higher education as a cornerstone for building a self-reliant, innovative, and globally competitive nation. Recognizing the transformative potential of knowledge, India's higher education ecosystem is undergoing comprehensive reforms aimed at expanding access, enhancing quality, deepening research capabilities, and fostering industry–society linkages. These reforms seek not only to modernize institutions but also to redefine the very purpose of higher education in shaping a future-ready citizen. Institutions of higher learning will develop into dynamic ecosystems that foster entrepreneurship and innovation. A culture of entrepreneurship will be fostered and campuses will become hotspots for innovation thanks to facilities like incubation centres and startup hubs, as well as solid industry connections that will encourage students and staff to develop and commercialize creative ideas. "To transform India into a fully developed nation by 2047, marking 100 years of independence" is the ambition of "Viksit Bharat 2047." Furthermore, higher education is envisioned as a bridge between *global knowledge systems and India's cultural heritage*. Internationalization through student/faculty mobility, global partnerships, and transnational education is expanding India's global academic footprint. At the same time, universities are promoting Indian languages, arts, traditions, and knowledge systems, ensuring that the march toward modernization remains rooted in civilizational values. The Union Budget for 2024–2025 outlines the comprehensive roadmap, which highlights nine key areas: improving agricultural productivity and resilience, encouraging employment and skill development, guaranteeing inclusive human resource development and social justice, advancing manufacturing and services, addressing issues related to urban development, guaranteeing energy security, investing in infrastructure, encouraging innovation, and putting next-generation reforms into action. A broad and ambitious strategy "to transform India into a developed nation" is represented by *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY

Another significant reform area is the India aims to become a global research and development hub by 2047, and higher education institutions are being reoriented to support high-impact research in frontier domains such as artificial intelligence, clean energy, biotechnology, quantum technologies, and sustainable agriculture. The establishment of research parks, innovation clusters, incubators, and university–industry partnerships is enabling students and faculty to convert ideas into scalable solutions. These initiatives also align with national priorities like *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, promoting indigenous technologies and reducing dependency on imports. By 2047, the government wants to build an affluent and inclusive India by emphasizing social justice, infrastructure, innovation, economic growth, and global influence. Significant changes to higher education are part of the *Viksit Bharat* plan. The goal is to develop an educational system that is prepared for the future and gives students the tools they need to apply their knowledge in practical settings and adjust to shifting conditions. This entails strengthening research capacities, encouraging creativity, and advancing industry-academia cooperation "to bridge the gap between the theoretical knowledge and practical application." Collectively, these reforms position higher education as a *multi-dimensional driver of national transformation*. It is not only an engine of economic advancement but also a platform for fostering democratic citizenship, cultural preservation, environmental stewardship, and technological progress. The reimagined higher education ecosystem aims to produce innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, teachers, and leaders who can contribute meaningfully to India's aspiration of becoming a developed, resilient, and globally respected nation by 2047. In essence, higher education in *Viksit Bharat 2047* is envisioned as the fulcrum that connects human potential with national progress, ensuring that development is sustainable, equitable, and future-ready.

COLLABORATIVE AND STRATEGIC APPROACH

To address multifaceted challenges and on transformative opportunities, addressing the infrastructure gap, alumni support and international collaboration in higher education, enhancing soft skills & interdisciplinary education, connecting education with industry needs. Make in India and *Atmanirbhar Bharat*: The government's efforts to boost home-grown manufacturing and independence present substantial chances for economic expansion. While the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India) campaign concentrates on lowering reliance on imports and boosting domestic output, the Make in India project seeks to raise the manufacturing sector's GDP share to 25% by 2025. Underemployment and Unemployment:

Despite a youthful populace, creating jobs is still a major challenge. In India, the unemployment rate has hovered between 7 and 8%, with youth unemployment being especially high. Another urgent problem is underemployment, which occurs when people labour in positions that do not make use of their education or skills.

Inadequate Rural Infrastructure- Rural growth is hampered by a lack of roads, electricity, and internet. Even while the government has made great progress in electrifying rural areas, many communities still do not have dependable power. Roughly 30% of rural households have internet access, indicating low internet penetration in rural areas.

Logistics and Supply Chain Inefficiencies- Ineffective transportation systems have an impact on exports and industrial efficiency. Almost 14% of India's GDP is spent on logistics, making it one of the most expensive countries in the world. This is caused by insufficient integrated logistical hubs, ineffective rail systems, and inadequate road networks.

Digital Divide- Inadequate internet connectivity in rural areas hinders financial inclusion and digital development. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) reports that only about 45% of rural families have internet access, compared to 70% in urban regions. This digital divide hinders the government's efforts to promote digital services and financial inclusion.

Effects of Climate Change- Rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns pose a threat to agriculture and biodiversity. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the frequency of extreme weather events like floods and droughts has significantly increased during the last ten years.

Resource Depletion- When natural resources are overused without adequate alternatives, long-term risks result. Groundwater levels in India are falling at an alarming rate due to exploitation of more than 60% of the country's aquifers. This has a significant influence on agriculture and the supply of drinking water.

ROADMAP TO ACHIEVE VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) can be achieved by the implementation of investor-friendly policies, corporate transaction facilitation, and regulatory clarity. The government should continue to loosen FDI laws in key sectors including retail, insurance, and defence in order to attract more foreign investment. Enhancing agricultural reforms: Raising production in the fields of precision, smart farming, and agro-processing. The government should encourage the use of technology in agriculture, including drones, IoT, and AI, to boost agricultural yields and reduce post-harvest losses.

Sustained High Economic Growth

- i. Target of 7–8%+ annual GDP growth over the next two

decades.

- ii. Strengthening macroeconomic stability through fiscal discipline, efficient public expenditure, and resilient financial systems.

Industrial Modernization

- i. Promoting advanced manufacturing—semiconductors, electronics, defence, space, medical devices.
- ii. Expansion of **Make in India 2.0**, focusing on high-value manufacturing.
- iii. Supporting MSMEs with credit, digital tools, and infrastructure.

Innovation & Technology-led Economy

- i. Building a strong ecosystem of **R&D**, innovation clusters, and startups.
- ii. Investment in emerging technologies: AI, robotics, automation, Quantum computing, Biotechnology, Clean energy technologies.

Skilling India for Future Jobs

- i. Advanced manufacturing.
- ii. Strengthening vocational education through industry–academia collaboration.

Women-led Development

- i. Increasing female participation in workforce and leadership positions.
- ii. Supportive policies: childcare infrastructure, safety measures, skilling programs, entrepreneurship support.

Digital Governance

- i. Strengthening cyber security and data protection frameworks.
- ii. Expansion of digital public infrastructure for transparent and efficient service delivery

Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 demands a holistic, long-term approach combining *economic progress, social equity, environmental sustainability, cultural resurgence, and robust governance*. India must leverage its demographic dividend, technological capabilities, and global influence to transform into a developed nation by its centenary of independence. The journey requires collaboration among government, industry, academia, and citizens, ensuring that progress are inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready.

Various schemes/projects/programmes of Ministry of Education have been aligned with NEP 2020 to realize the vision of making India a developed Nation by @2047 thereby transforming education for a future-ready India

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a crucial part of the educational revolution. One of its objectives is to

promote comprehensive, flexible, and multidisciplinary education that promotes each student's individual abilities and is in step with the demands of the twenty-first century. The policy emphasises critical thinking, innovation, and the integration of vocational education at all levels. Digital education is an important part of the Viksit Bharat agenda. Initiatives to improve digital literacy and ensure that everyone has access to education are being led by the government, particularly in rural and impoverished areas. This entails creating digital platforms and technologies that can give kids all throughout the nation an excellent education. One of the main objectives is to guarantee all kids, especially those from low-income families, a thorough, excellent education. This will be achieved through formal education, state-of-the-art digital platforms, and specialised programs designed to address the diverse needs of students. The educational vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 is comprehensive and forward-thinking. By focusing on higher education transformation, digital accessibility, inclusivity, skill development, and global competitiveness, the government hopes to create an educational system that not only meets the needs of the current system but also prepares students for the future. Higher education institutions should establish research institutes focused on AI and education in order to investigate cutting-edge technology. The establishment of these centres provides opportunities to work with international organisations, commercial partners, and government agencies to address education-related concerns and foster innovation. University-run AI research facilities generate state-of-the-art AI teaching applications; claimed *Kapoor and Aggarwal* (2023). An AI research centre focused on applying machine learning to education was established by IIT Delhi (*IIT Delhi AI Lab*, 2023). Stanford University works with a number of organisations through the AI Lab to provide educational resources that make use of AI platforms (*Stanford AI Lab*, 2023). The success of student learning depends on collaborative efforts between academic institutions, corporate executives, and research facilities that highlight real-world AI applications. *West et al.* (2021) reported that students can gain significant learning experiences through practical projects by directly utilising technology from Google, Microsoft, and IBM. NITI Aayog of India collaborated with IBM to incorporate AI into educational institutions across the country (*NITI Aayog*, 2023). NEP 2020 encourages the use of AI in higher education to enhance students' capacity for research and the development of their experimental skills (*Ministry of Education*, 2020). The application of AI will drive educational reform across India, assisting the nation in achieving its 2047 target, according to Arora and Ghosh's analysis. The Government of India's "Viksit Bharat

2047" plan, also called "Developed India 2047," aims to make India a developed nation by 2047, the year of our nation's centenary. However, achieving this goal would necessitate a long-term, multifaceted approach that addresses all areas, including infrastructure, social development, governance, technology, and economics. The NEP 2020 is designed to be an education program that will eliminate current gender, social, economic, and cultural disparities while having a long-term impact on increasing the labour force. However, in order to implement this concept in the near future, it will be necessary to lessen institutional disparities, provide adequate digital resources to support blended learning, reroute sufficient financing, and provide trained educators with the tools they need to spread the word. As of this writing, in order to successfully implement this strategy, all stakeholders—including the government, business, and academia—must collaborate. One major challenge that must be overcome is improving public acceptance of this policy through effective communication of the NEP 2020's what, how, and why. NEP 2020 is crucial for India to create a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. By placing a strong emphasis on gender equality, economic growth, sustainability, and high-quality education, the policy lays the groundwork for a more inclusive, welcoming, and sustainable future. NEP 2020 must be successfully implemented in order to achieve these goals and position India as a global leader in sustainable development. The goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 is to make India a developed country by 2047, the year of its 100th year of independence. This goal integrates several elements of development, such as a robust educational system, economic growth, environmental sustainability, social progress, and good governance, to make India a developed nation by 2047. "The world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge landscape," states the National Education Policy 2020. Big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and other scientific and technical developments could lead to the replacement of much unskilled employment by machines. Simultaneously, there will be an increasing need for people with trans-disciplinary skills in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, particularly in computer science, data science, and mathematics. The world's energy, water, food, and sanitation demands will be significantly altered as a result of climate change, increased pollution, and the depletion of natural resources. This will once again require the recruitment of fresh, highly qualified personnel, particularly in the domains of biology, chemistry, physics, agriculture, climate science, and social science. There will be a growing need for the humanities and arts as India grows into one of the three most powerful economies in the world.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, achieving *Viksit Bharat by 2047* requires a robust, inclusive, and future-ready higher education system. By fostering innovation, skill development, values, and global competitiveness, higher education acts as a catalyst for national transformation. A developed India can only emerge when its youth are educated, empowered, and equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. *Technology integration* is a central driver of the Viksit Bharat agenda. The rise of digital universities, online and blended learning platforms, virtual laboratories, and AI-based tools is revolutionizing higher education delivery. By leveraging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, automation, and virtual reality, Indian institutions are preparing students for emerging sectors including fin-tech, biotechnology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing. Digital empowerment also helps bridge the urban–rural divide, enabling students from remote regions to access quality education. To achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat, India's higher education ecosystem is undergoing large-scale reforms. The focus of our education policy consequently changed from holistic education to a more fragmented, exam-oriented framework that stressed rote learning over individual creativity and critical thinking (Thakkar, 2024). The *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020* provides a comprehensive roadmap for restructuring higher education to make it more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and aligned with global standards. One of the key principles of NEP is the shift from rote learning to *critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving*, which are indispensable skills for a modern and developed society. This could be attributed to many factors including post-colonial legacy challenges like poverty, illiteracy lack of infrastructure, adoption of Western models of education and side-lining of the indigenous knowledge systems (Pandya, 2024). The focus of our education policy thus drifted from holistic education to a more segmented, exam-oriented mechanism that promoted rote learning over individual creativity and critical thinking (Thakkar, 2024). However, the COVID19 pandemic forced us to a digital medium of education popularly called Online Education (Bordoloi et al., 2021; Dziuban et al., 2018). The policy encourages universities to adopt flexible curricula with multiple exit options, skill-based courses, and experiential learning to ensure that graduates are employable and industry-ready. “*Viksit Bharat*,” or *Developed India*, is a national vision aimed at transforming India into a prosperous, self-reliant, and globally competitive nation by the year 2047, when India completes 100 years of independence. A critical pillar supporting this vision is a strong and forward-looking higher education system capable of producing skilled,

innovative, and socially responsible citizens. Higher education plays a transformative role in shaping the knowledge economy, fostering research and innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening democratic and cultural values—all essential components of a developed nation. *Internationalization of higher education* is another important dimension. Global partnerships, student exchanges, joint degree programs, and world-class foreign universities operating in India enhance quality and global exposure. This strengthens India's soft power and positions it as a knowledge hub. Further, *research, innovation, and entrepreneurship* form the backbone of a developed economy. The establishment of research ecosystems like incubation centres, start-up hubs, and national research foundations encourages young minds to convert ideas into impactful solutions. Collaboration among academia, industry, and government boosts innovation in areas such as healthcare, space technology, agriculture, and climate science. Promoting a culture of research excellence helps India compete globally and supports the broader developmental goals of Viksit Bharat. Numerous causes, such as post-colonial legacy issues like poverty, illiteracy, lack of infrastructure, acceptance of Western educational paradigms, and marginalization of indigenous knowledge systems, could be to blame for this (Pandya, 2024).

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