



Viksit Bharat 2047: Integrating Economic Progress with Environmental Sustainability

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ABSTRACT

Viksit Bharat 2047 aims to establish the nation as a developed and recognized global leader by its 100th year of independence. A key factor of this transformation is environmental sustainability, that ensures economic progress along with ecological conservation. This paper explores the key strategies needed to achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' with environmental sustainability, including the transition to clean energy, climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable urban planning, industrial decarbonization, and effective environmental policies. The study focuses on the importance of transitioning to green energy, at the same time adopting measures to reduce carbon emissions and proper waste management. Also, it emphasizes the need for forest conservation and improved agricultural practices to mitigate climate change impacts. An approach involving government policies to regulate industrial emissions, technological innovation, and public participation is important to achieve sustainable growth.

Keywords: environment, economic growth, sustainability, climate change

INTRODUCTION

To make India a developed country by the time of completing 100 years of its independence, the Government of India has envisioned the mission of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. India as a nation possesses great potential for development. At present India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and will soon become the fourth largest economy surpassing Japan in 2025, according to the IMF's World Economic Outlook. (Behrer et al., 2023). Still, India is currently placed among developing nations. To become a developed country India has to overcome many hurdles in sectors like manufacturing, energy, healthcare, science and technology, education, agriculture, infrastructure, research and innovation, women empowerment and environment. The goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' cannot be met without addressing the current environmental challenges.

Economic growth and its Impact on Environment

Rapid industrialization and urbanization while necessary for economic progress degrades the quality of environment due to carbon emissions and pollution. Manufacturing activities contribute to higher CO₂ emissions in India, as the industrial sector mainly depends on energy generated from carbon-emitting fossil fuels. In addition, the country's growing economy demands higher energy consumption, exacerbating its dependence on fossil fuels and leading to increased CO₂ emissions. (IBEF, 2025) Increased industrial activities also lead to an increased SO₂ emissions, contributing to environmental pollution. This creates a difficulty in handling environmental deterioration while experiencing swift economic development. (INCCA, 2010)

Many environmental pollutants are a major cause of human diseases, even influencing climate change and public and individual health, resulting in higher mortality and morbidity (Patel and Mehta, 2023). Air pollution has various detrimental effects on workers and economic sectors, which are seen at the macroeconomic level as slower economic growth. The primary ways in which air pollution affects annual GDP fluctuations encompass reduced worker productivity, raising absenteeism due to health issues and directly damaging agricultural production. (Picciariello et al., 2021).

With economic progress, deforestation becomes inevitable as forests are cleared to make land available for urbanization and industrialization activities. This leads to habitat loss and is detrimental for biodiversity. Urban expansion and land use changes in the Himalayas and the Western Ghats are major contributors to forest loss, resulting in a significant decline in natural habitats. (Raghvan et al., 2020).

Increased CO₂ emissions result in global warming by trapping heat in the atmosphere. Rising temperatures lead to climate change disrupting normal weather patterns all over the world. India is also experiencing climate change which poses a threat to its rapid economic progress. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) released an "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region" which depicts that India's average temperature increased by approximately 0.7°C during the period of 1901 to 2018. The report also estimates that the average temperature of

the country will rise by 4.4°C at the end of the century. The intensity of heat waves is also expected to increase by three to four times. (Shetty et al., 2023). The impact of climate change is estimated to be significant on the GDP of India. By 2100, India's GDP could reduce by 3-10% annually due to climate change, while its poverty rate may increase by 3.5% by 2040 as a result of climate change. (Singh et al., 2024).

Measures for Environmental Sustainability

A healthy environment is necessary to foster economic progress of India. Economic growth without environmental sustainability would risk the well-being of citizens and endanger the incredible flora and fauna of our country. To achieve the target of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' India needs to accelerate its economic growth but this economic growth should be planned in such a way that the environment is protected and preserved. In another words, economic progress must sustain the environment in every possible way. To ensure environmental sustainability following measures should be considered

1. Transition to green energy: Use of fossil fuels has led to increased greenhouse gas emissions, negatively impacting the environment. India should lower its dependence on fossil fuels and shift to green energy in a stepwise and regulated manner so as not to slow down its economic growth. Green energy use needs to be encouraged to preserve our environment and natural resources. Long-term economic growth while ensuring a sustainable environment is only possible by transitioning to green energy for our energy needs. India's target is to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and to fulfill 50% of its electricity requirements through renewable sources by 2030. If India has to become self-sufficient in energy, green energy is going to play a major role. (The World 2025) For this research into technology to achieve maximum and economical utilization of green energy should be promoted through increased investments into green energy infrastructure.
2. Conserving forests and protecting biodiversity: India economic growth should sustain its natural resources of forests and biodiversity. Promoting reforestation and conservation efforts to protect existing forests are important steps in this direction. Urbanization and industrialization related activities should be carried out with extensive planning and execution so as to

ensure minimum loss of green cover. To preserve India's biodiversity, protected areas should be properly managed and regulated through strict law enforcement. Habitats of endangered species need to be protected through sustainable land use practices. Making people aware of the importance of forests in maintaining a healthy environment and encouraging them to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives is also a way to conserve forests. Promoting the idea of agroforestry i.e. planting trees on agricultural lands will result in increased green cover.

3. **Curbing pollution and global warming:** Pollution degrades the quality of air, water and land making them unsuitable for human use and negatively impacts other living species. With measures to reduce carbon emissions such as increasing the use of green energy, implementing stricter regulations to make industries minimize the release of pollutants and reducing plastic use and waste generation through recycle and reuse, India can curb environmental pollution. Reduced carbon emissions will also help mitigate global warming and climate change which otherwise could slow down the economic growth of India. For this, India needs to protect its forests and invest in public transportation infrastructure and promote the use of electric vehicles.
4. **Mitigating Climate change:** Climate change is leading to unpredictable changes in rainfall patterns across the country affecting agricultural productivity. Indian farmers should adopt strategies to conserve water through better irrigation and improved technologies. Use of varieties that are more resistant to the effects of climate change should be used. A study on the projected impacts of climate change by the 2030s across sectors—Agriculture, Water, Natural Ecosystems & Biodiversity, and Health—in four regions of India: the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal Areas, and the North-East Region reports that Irrigated rice yields might see slight gains due to warming, whereas rainfed crops could face challenges. Maize and sorghum yields are projected to decline across all regions. The report also highlights the need for rapid capacity building to promote climate change research in India. It recommends the development of efficient mechanisms to share and access data in easily understandable formats, facilitating informed decision-making and effective

policy formulation. (Yan et al., 2022) Agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the country's economy and protecting it from the effects of climate change is important to achieve the target of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

CONCLUSION

The vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' is to make India a developed nation by its 100th year of independence. To achieve this, we need to transform India's economy to make it self-reliant in all sectors of growth. The roadmap to 'Viksit Bharat' should be set while keeping in focus the conservation of environment and natural resources. Though economic growth is important, but it cannot come at the cost of our environment. India is already facing challenges in preserving its natural resources due to increasing population pressure. Pollution and global warming have also negatively impacted the health and livelihoods of its people. Such hurdles may slow down India's economic progress making the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' unrealistic. To overcome this challenge, India needs to integrate its economic growth with environmental responsibility. By shifting to green energy with the help of innovation in technology, planning urban expansion while sustaining the environment, adopting sustainable agricultural practices, promoting water conservation and afforestation to ensure ecosystem balance, strictly regulating industrial emissions, investing in green infrastructure, improving waste management, strengthening rules to protect biodiversity, making better policies and with public awareness and participation, the dream of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' can be realized while integrating economic progress with environmental sustainability.

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