युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

VIKSIT BHARAT YOUNG LEADERS DIALOGUE 2026

09TH-12TH JANUARY I BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI

VIKSIT BHARAT

CHALLENGE TRACK

TOP

ESSAY ENTRIES



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INTRODUCTION

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026

The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 marks the next decisive step in India's journey to nurture, empower, and mainstream young leadership as a driving force of national transformation. Anchored in the spirit of National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 continues the evolution of the National Youth Festival into a future-facing platform that places youth at the centre of India's development discourse.

Building on the landmark restructuring of the National Youth Festival in 2025, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 deepens its alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, calling upon young Indians not merely to participate in nation-building, but to conceptualise, design, and lead it. This edition expands both in ambition and architecture engaging youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years across geographies, disciplines, and lived realities through a robust, merit-based, multi-track framework

At the heart of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 lies a carefully designed ecosystem of competitive and collaborative tracks Cultural and Innovation, Viksit Bharat Challenge, Design for Bharat, Hack for a Social Cause, and Diaspora Youth Participation each offering young people a distinct pathway to express leadership through ideas, creativity, technology, policy thinking, and cultural rootedness. Together, these tracks reflect a holistic understanding of leadership: one that values tradition alongside innovation, grassroots realities alongside global perspectives, and vision alongside execution

The Viksit Bharat Challenge Track, from which this volume of essays emerges, represents one of the most rigorous national youth engagement exercises undertaken in recent years. The journey began with a nationwide Viksit Bharat Quiz, followed by a competitive Essay Challenge, where selected participants articulated their perspectives on key national priorities ranging from inclusive growth and climate resilience to women's leadership, youth-led governance, skilling for future jobs, and a healthy, addiction-free society. These essays were evaluated through a structured assessment framework by domain experts across States and Union Territories, ensuring depth, originality, and alignment with the vision of a developed India by 2047

The strongest ideas progressed to State Championships, where participants translated thought into action through vision decks and leadership assessments, culminating in the National Championship at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Here, selected teams refined their ideas under mentorship and expert guidance, with the most compelling visions earning the opportunity to be presented before the Hon'ble Prime Minister symbolically placing youth ideas at the highest table of national dialogue

This coffee table book is a curated selection from that vast and diverse intellectual reservoir. The essays presented here are not merely academic responses; they are reflections of lived experience, aspiration, and responsibility. Each section is introduced with contextual insights to help readers appreciate the thematic relevance and policy significance of the ideas that follow. Collectively, these essays offer a window into how India's youth think about governance, growth, sustainability, equity, and leadership and how they envision contributing to the nation's next phase of development.

As you turn these pages, you will encounter ideas shaped by classrooms and communities, informed by tradition and technology, and driven by a shared belief in India's potential. The most inspiring journeys, stories of transformation, resilience, and leadership that emerged from this process are presented in this volume, reminding us that behind every idea lies a young Indian ready to lead from the front.

We invite you to engage with these voices, reflect on their visions, and join them in shaping the collective pursuit of a Viksit Bharat.

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सत्यमेव जयते

TOP ESSAY COMPILATION

भारत SOFT POWER

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE FOR VIKSIT BHARAT



ESSAY 01 | VIDISHA KAVDE
MAHARASTHRA

India is to the world what Bihar is to India. Yet somewhere along the way, this comparison, meant to evoke the cradle of civilization, became an insult, a snide remark. But tell me honestly, what is so shameful about being the "Bihar" of anything? Bihar is the birthplace of culture, civilization, and spiritual depth. It is the land that taught the world what renunciation means, where the Buddha found enlightenment, where Mahavira walked, where global education flourished in Nalanda, and where Chanakya sharpened the political wisdom that still governs societies. If that is what Bihar represents, then being the "Bihar of the world" is not an embarrassment, it is a crown. And India has always worn it well. Yet history twisted the narrative. Colonizers called us the "White Man's burden," mocked us as uncivilized and backward. But how can a nation that gave humanity its first urban civilization be uncivilized? How can the land of the Sapt-Sindhu, where town planning, sewage systems, and standardized weights existed before Europe built stable villages, be called primitive? While the world struggled through plagues, the Pandyas of Tamilakam were exporting pearls, textiles, spices, and knowledge through thriving maritime routes to Southeast Asia. India was charting the movement of planets when others debated the existence of rivers. Our intellectual depth was intimidating, so they rewrote the story. Victors don't just conquer land; they conquer memory. And, tragically, we began to believe them. Somewhere between colonisation, modern chaos, peer pressure, and imitation, we shrank from our own greatness. Today, our children can name every Disney princess but struggle to recall the names of the Pandavas. They know Cinderella's glass shoe but not Sita's courage. They recognise Hogwarts from a silhouette but cannot imagine the courts of Hastinapur. The Ramayana and Mahabharata, civilizational epics that shaped cultures across Asia, are dismissed as "myths," while foreign tales dominate childhood dreams. This isn't merely cultural drift; it is a civilizational wound.

Why are we ashamed of what the world admires?

The very culture we hide is the culture the world is trying to adopt. Yoga studios in New York. Ayurveda clinics in Berlin. Meditation retreats in Australia. Bollywood beats setting fire to global weddings. Indian-origin leaders steering nations. Our spices filling Michelin kitchens. Our fabrics inspiring luxury couture. And yet, while the world turns to India for meaning, depth, and beauty, we chase foreign trends, forgetting the power that lies in our roots. We watch as our traditions get repackaged and sold back to us. A Kolhapuri becomes a "Pradapuri." A dupatta becomes a "Scandinavian scarf." Haldi doodh becomes a "golden latte" worth eight dollars.

But the truth stands quietly, unshaken: these traditions were ours. They are ours. They will remain ours. Our food, attire, languages, and rhythms of life are not aesthetic choices; they are legacies. They carry the memories of ancestors who built, crafted, wrote, fought, created, and dreamed. These aren't relics to hide; they are weapons of identity. And if India has never lacked anything, it is an identity strong enough to outlive every invasion.

India's soft power is not something we must manufacture. It already exists. It has existed for millennia. What we need now is the confidence to project it. The world today, hungry for authenticity, stands ready for India's voice. We are the last surviving ancient civilization that is alive, not frozen in museums. Our stories breathe. Our festivals adapt. Our traditions evolve. Our families remain close knit. Our spiritual depth continues to inspire a world tired of emptiness.

But to move toward a Viksit Bharat, a developed, future-ready India, we must carry this civilizational wisdom forward. Modernization without memory becomes westernization. Development without identity becomes imitation. And a nation that imitates can never lead. A Viksit Bharat cannot be built only on highways, technology, and GDP. It must be built on cultural confidence, continuity, and pride. Cultural diplomacy is not decoration, it is strategy. When the world trusts a nation's values, it trusts its markets. When it respects a civilization, it respects its voice.

Our culture opens doors where politics hesitates. It builds friendships without negotiations. It creates goodwill no investment campaign can buy. This cultural confidence now finds expression in initiatives like the Kashi Culture Pathway, advocating for culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 global agenda, a bold assertion of India's civilizational capital. We see it in the UN's declaration of the International Day of Yoga, supported by 177 nations, transforming an ancient practice into a global soft-power asset. When Ayurveda becomes a global wellness industry valued in billions, when Indian cinema shapes global imagination, when handwoven textiles enter luxury runways, culture becomes commerce. Soft power becomes economic power. Identity becomes industry. Culture becomes capital. This is how nations rise.

For this cultural resurgence to shape Viksit Bharat, we must begin at home. Our children should know Abhimanyu's courage as easily as they know Harry Potter's spells. The Ramayana deserves animation; the Mahabharata deserves gaming; Panchatantra deserves classrooms; Sangam literature deserves global shelves. Our classical arts

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ESSAY 02 | VALENCIO WILLIAM
MAHARASHTRA

As India marches confidently toward the vision of Viksit Bharat-a fully developed, globally respected nation-soft power emerges as one of its most persuasive instruments. Unlike hard power, which relies on military and economic strength, soft power wins hearts through culture, values, and civilizational depth. Bharat has, for millennia, influenced the world not through conquest, but through knowledge, spirituality, diversity, compassion, and creativity. Today, as global dynamics shift, India's cultural diplomacy is reclaiming this historic role, positioning the nation as a moral, cultural, and intellectual force in the 21st century.

Historically, Bharat's greatest ambassadors were not kings or generals, but sages, scholars, traders, and artists. Over two thousand years ago, Indian thought travelledto far corners of Asia and beyond. The spread of Buddhism across East and Southeast Asia is one of the world's most remarkable examples of non-violent cultural transmission. Emperor Ashoka's emissaries reached Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Korea, and Japan-not with weapons, but with messages of peace, compassion, and human dignity. Even today, the massive influence of Nalanda University's ancient scholars on Asian education symbolizes Bharat's intellectual soft power.

Similarly, the maritime trade routes of ancient India, woven through ports like Lothal, Muziris, and Tamralipta, carried textiles, spices, and precious stones to Rome, Egypt, and Southeast Asia. Yet India exported more than goods-it exported ideas, art forms, and philosophies. The Ramayana and Mahabharata inspired stories, dances,and temple architecture across Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand. The majestic Angkor Wat stands as a testament to India's cultural reach, crafted not by imperial pressure,but through admiration and cultural kinship.

n the modern era, this heritage has evolved into structured cultural diplomacy. India's soft power today rests on three strong pillars: civilizational wisdom, cultural richness, and technological-humanitarian leadership.

One of the most visible examples is the global embrace of Yoga. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations in 2014, it received unprecedented support from 177 countries. Every year now, millions of people-from New York's Times Square to the beaches of Bali-celebrate a practice that originated in ancient Bharat. Yoga has become a global language of health, harmony, and mindfulness, elevating India's cultural prestige.

Another growing symbol of India's soft power is Ayurveda. As the world increasingly turns toward natural and holistic wellness, India's traditional healing system is gaining international recognition. Ayurvedic centers, herbal products, and wellness tourism have expanded across continents, not only promoting Indian knowledge systems but also contributing economically

to India's development goals. India's diaspora is another powerful conduit of soft power with over 30 million people of Indian origin across the globe, the diaspora acts as a bridge between cultures. Figures like Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, and Kamala Harris reflect India's global intellectual impact. At the community level, temples, cultural festivals, Indian cuisine, Bollywood, and classical arts have woven themselves into the social fabric of nations worldwide. Diwali is now celebrated in the White House, the UK Parliament, and iconic global landmarks-an achievement of soft power unmatched by most nations.

Cultural diplomacy has also been strengthened through institutions like the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Nalanda University (revived), and cultural centers across the world. Initiatives like "Incredible India,""Dekho Apna Desh," and spiritual tourism circuits further promote India's cultural narrative.

In recent years, India has also embraced digital soft power, using technology and innovation to shape global perceptions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India's Vaccine Maitri initiative supplied life-saving vaccines to over 100 countries, reinforcingIndia's role as the "Pharmacy of the World." Digital Public Infrastructure-including UPI, Aadhaar-stack technologies, and digital governance systems-is gaining international admiration. Countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are adopting India's digital models, enhancing India's global influence through cooperation rather than dominance.

Perhaps the most inspiring shift is India's emergence as the voice of the Global South. Through platforms like the G20, ISA (International Solar Alliance), and the Coalitionfor Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India champions equity, sustainability, and collective progress. This leadership style-rooted in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the ancient Indian ideal that "the world is one family"-is a profound demonstration of civilizational soft power guiding modern diplomacy.

For Bharat to become Viksit Bharat, soft power must work hand-in-hand with economic growth, education, and global partnerships. India must continue investing in cultural preservation, creative industries, knowledge systems, and international collaborations. Strengthening the global presence of Indian universities, media platforms, start-ups, and research institutions will be essential. So too will be encouraging youth to become cultural ambassadors, carrying India's story with pride.

In conclusion, Bharat's soft power is not merely a strategic tool-it is the living essenceof a civilization that has enriched humanity for thousands of years. By harnessing its ancient wisdom and modern aspirations, India can shape a more peaceful, cooperative,and balanced world. As the nation strides toward the dream of Viksit Bharat, its cultural diplomacy will remain one of its most enduring strengths-quiet yet transformative, rooted in heritage yet reaching for the future.

ESSAY 03 | JITENDRA SINGH
ODISHA

"नियतं कुरु कर्म त्वं" — Bhagavad Gita

India's soft power is not merely an asset of culture, but a civilizational force. When the world measures strength through weapons and wealth, Bharat quietly influences hearts through values, ideas, and human connections. As we march towards Viksit Bharat 2047, cultural diplomacy becomes not only a tool but a national strategy.

Introduction : INDIA stands at a defining moment. While economies compete, cultures collaborate; while borders divide, soft power binds. In a world shaped by narratives, the nation that shapes minds ultimately shapes markets, diplomacy, and global behaviour. Soft power thus becomes a strategic lever for India's rise and therefore, I define soft power as the ability of a nation to make the world willingly embrace its values, creativity, and human qualities — without force, only through attraction.

This essay explores how Bharat can transform its civilizational heritage, modern creativity, and emotional influence into a global force for development.

The Four Layer Architecture of Indian Soft Power :

- GLOBAL IMPACT :
- Image Projection Layer (Brand India, Digital diplomacy)
- Cultural Influence and Creative Layer (Arts, cinema, festivals, literature)
- Human Capital Layer (Diaspora, students, IT talent, yoga ambassadors)
- Ethical and Trust Layer (Values, peace diplomacy, humanitarian leadership)
- WORLD

India's Unique Civilizational Strengths :

- Few nations possess uninterrupted cultural memory spanning thousands of years. India's soft power draws from :
- Dharma as ethics beyond religion
- Spiritual sciences like Yoga, Ayurveda
- Linguistic diversity
- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam(World as a family)
- Classical arts, literature, architecture
- Democratic resilience
- These are not cultural items — they are cultural forces but for Viksit Bharat, soft power must become structured, strategic, and globally visible.

Current Status : Rare Insights & Missing Links :

- Most participants talk about yoga, Bollywood etc. But the real gaps lie deeper :
- Fragmented cultural communication — India has content, but no unified global messaging strategy.
- Under-utilisation of intangible heritage — meditation lineages, classical languages, ancient manuscripts remain unexplored internationally.
- Emotional power unused — India influences the world emotionally, yet we've never systematised this as a diplomatic tool.

Rare & Innovative Soft Power Ideas :

- SP-OS : Soft Power Operating System Just like nations have economic policies, India can develop a soft power OS — a national framework integrating :
  - » Cultural start-ups
  - » Heritage tech
  - » Global cultural internships
  - » Digital diplomacy units
  - » Inter-faith and inter-value dialogues This becomes India's "global cultural engine".
- Lost Sound Lab : India has thousands of endangered folk instruments and vanishing ragas If India digitises, archives, and exports these sounds they can :
  - » Create global music fusion
  - » Build sound-based tourism
  - » Generate cultural IP
  - » Make India the "World's spiritual sound hub"
- Emotional Security Diplomacy : Countries like Japan and Korea succeeded by selling emotion through culture, design, and behaviour. India can export emotional security through :
  - » Ayurveda wellness diplomacy
  - » Gurukul-inspired teacher exchange
  - » Village-homestay peace tourism
  - » Indian conflict-resolution models
  - » This is India's soft power superweapon — non-aggressive peace influence.

GLOBAL EXAMPLES INDIA CAN LEARN FROM :

- କିଛି ଦେଶ ନିଜର cultural weaknesses କୁ strengths ବନାଇଛନ୍ତି :
  - ଯେମିତି Japan ଭଳି ଦେଶ centuries of war ର କଷ୍ଟକୁ art, cinema ଏବଂ identity ରେ ବଦଳାଇ ଦେଲେ ।
  - ଦକ୍ଷିଣ କୋରିଆ ଭଳି ଦେଶ ଗରିବୀରୁ ଉଠି pop-culture ଦ୍ୱାରା ଦୁନିଆକୁ influence କରୁଛି ।
  - Switzerland ଭଳି ଛୋଟ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ମଧ୍ୟ, limited resources ଥାଇ ମଧ୍ୟ global branding ଦ୍ୱାରା identity ବଜାୟ ରଖିଛି ।

- ଏହିଭଳି ଉଦାହରଣଠାରୁ ଜଣାପଡୁଛି :-
  - "If a country can turn its culture into a genuine story, it can emerge as a superpower. India's story, by contrast, is a thousandfold deeper."

I-PACE FRAMEWORK : A ROADMAP FOR VIKSIT BHARAT SOFT POWER

- I-PACE = India's power of attraction for cultural excellence
- I — Identity Re-imagination : Bharat must narrate itself as a civilizational guide for the world — sustainability, peace, and human values.
- P — People Ambassadors : Diaspora, students, scientists, teachers, artists India's real diplomats.
- A — Arts and Aesthetics Revival : Raga, classical literature, crafts, temples arts global content.
- C — Cultural Tech : AI museums, VR pilgrimages, heritage-tech start-ups youth-led soft power.
- E — Emotional Diplomacy : Humanitarian aid, peace missions, Ayurveda wellness trust building.

This framework takes India beyond culture into global influence.

Vision 2047 : Bharat as a Soft Power Vishwaguru

By 2047, a culturally confident India can :

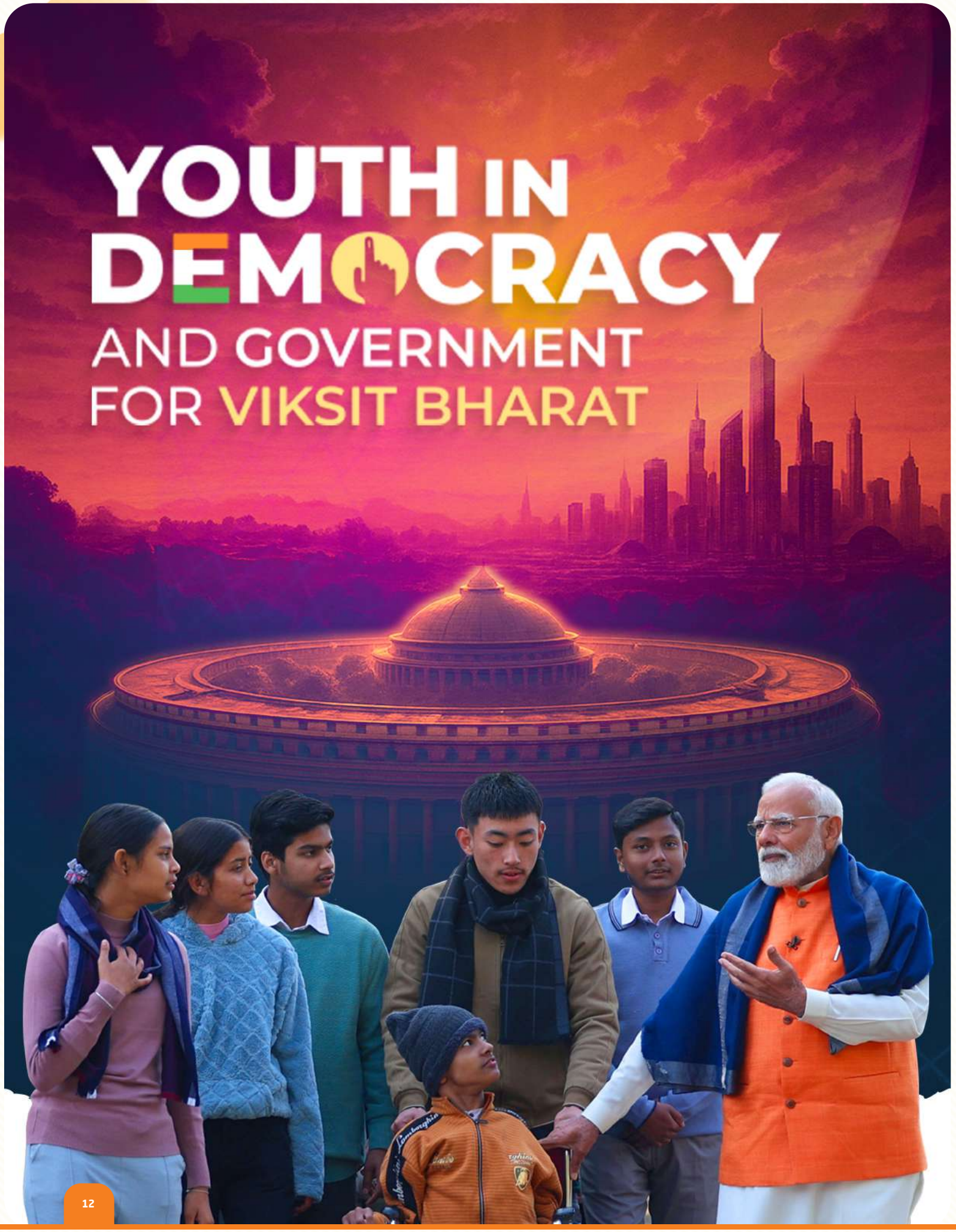
- Shape global debates on ethics
- Lead the world in wellness and sustainable living
- Build cultural industries worth trillions
- Become the world's spiritual, creative, and emotional capital

Conclusion :

Soft power is not decoration — it is transformation. It is Bharat's ability to inspire the world without commanding it. From the chants of the Vedas to cinema, from Ayurveda to AI museums, from diaspora goodwill to emotional diplomacy — India has every ingredient of a cultural superpower. If used with vision, discipline, and creativity, soft power will not only strengthen our global influence but also secure the foundation of Viksit Bharat 2047.

"**वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्**" — The world is one family.

And in this global family, Bharat is ready to lead with love, light, and legacy.


YOUTH IN
DEMOCRACY
AND GOVERNMENT
FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

ESSAY 01 | SHARMILA TARRA
ANDHRA PRADESH

As India marches confidently toward the ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, one truth becomes increasingly clear: the nation's youth will shape, strengthen, and steer this transformation. With one of the world's youngest populations, India possesses a demographic strength that can energize every aspect of democratic participation and governance. Youth are not merely the citizens of tomorrow; they are active contributors to the India of today, and empowering them in democratic processes is essential for building a developed and inclusive nation.

1. Youth: Guardians of India's Democratic Vibrancy

   Democracy thrives when citizens participate with awareness and responsibility. In recent years, young Indians have demonstrated a renewed enthusiasm for public issues—engaging in debates, participating in civic campaigns, and voicing concerns on digital platforms. This energy is uniquely powerful, because the youth bring fresh thinking, technological comfort, and a natural inclination to question outdated norms. Their involvement strengthens democratic values such as equality, transparency, and accountability. The rise in youth voter turnout, often higher than older age groups in many constituencies, shows their increasing trust in the democratic process. Social media activism, university-led discussions, environmental movements, and campaigns promoting gender equality all exemplify how youth engagement deepens India's democratic fabric.

2. From Participation to Decision-Making: Youth in Governance

   For India to become a fully developed nation by 2047, youth participation must extend beyond raising voices they must move into spaces where decisions are made. This means encouraging young Indians to engage with governance, policymaking, and administration in more formal and structured ways.

   ◦ Several initiatives are already opening pathways for youth participation:

   MY Bharat platform, which connects youth to volunteering, leadership, and nation-building opportunities. Atal Innovation Mission and Startup India, enabling young innovators to contribute directly to development. Digital India platforms, making government services more accessible and inviting tech-driven solutions from young minds. Local governance internships and youth advisory councils in certain states. However, to accelerate the journey toward Viksit Bharat, India needs a more systematic approach. This includes creating opportunities for young policy

researchers, technologists, social entrepreneurs, and first-time political leaders. When young people enter governance systems, they bring innovation, urgency, and problem-solving abilities that traditional structures often lack.

How Young Indians Can Shape Viksit Bharat

A. Strengthening Democratic Values and Ethics

Young citizens are more open to new ideas and more willing to embrace diversity. By promoting gender equality, social harmony, and respect for constitutional values, they can help eliminate biases that hinder progress. Their active involvement ensures that democratic principles remain strong and relevant.

B. Driving Technological Innovation in Governance

India's youth are among the world's most tech-savvy. Their expertise in fields like artificial intelligence, blockchain, data analytics, and digital communication can revolutionize governance. They can contribute to creating efficient public services, transparent systems, and citizen-friendly digital platforms—key elements of a developed nation.

C. Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

Young citizens increasingly engage in fact-checking, public policy awareness, and community-level monitoring of government projects. When youth demand accountability, governance naturally becomes more responsive and responsible. Their participation helps counter misinformation and encourages evidence-based discussions.

D. Innovating for Social and Economic Transformation

Start-ups led by young entrepreneurs are solving problems related to healthcare, agriculture, environment, education, and financial inclusion. Agricultural drones, health diagnostics powered by AI, affordable learning tools, and clean mobility solutions are just a few examples. Such innovations contribute directly to economic growth and social progress—both essential for a developed India.

E. Promoting National Unity and Cultural Confidence

India's youth, exposed to global ideas yet deeply connected to their roots, are ideal ambassadors of the country's cultural strength. They play a major role in celebrating diversity, preserving heritage, and promoting national integration. A united youth population can counter divisiveness and strengthen India's social foundations.

F. Policy Measures to Strengthen Youth Participation

To unlock the full potential of its youth, India needs focused strategies: National Youth Policy Fellowships to place young professionals in ministries and government departments. Compulsory civic education in schools and colleges to build democratic awareness from an early age. Digital governance labs, where youth can work with the government to prototype solutions. Reserved spaces for youth voices in local bodies, advisory councils, and policy committees. Internships in Parliament, state assemblies, and district administrations to encourage hands-on exposure. Training programs in leadership, public administration, and ethical governance to build capability. These measures would create a generation of skilled, informed, and confident youth leaders ready to shape India's developmental journey.

F. Shared Responsibility: Youth and Government Together

Achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat requires a partnership between young citizens and the government citizens and the government. Youth must embrace their responsibilities: voting regularly, staying informed, fighting misinformation, respecting diversity, and contributing to community development. At the same time, institutions must remain open to youth-led ideas and supportive of youthful participation in governance. A developed India cannot rely on traditional methods alone; it requires innovation, courage, and fresh thinking qualities the youth naturally possess.

Conclusion

India's path to Viksit Bharat @2047 will be defined by the strength of its democracy and the leadership of its youth. With their creativity, energy, and commitment to national progress, young Indians are poised to transform governance, strengthen accountability, and drive innovation across sectors. When youth step forward—not just as participants but as leaders, India's democratic system becomes more inclusive, dynamic, and future- ready.

A developed India will be the result of millions of young dreams, translated into action. Empowering youth in democracy and government is not just an option, it is the cornerstone of building a confident, modern, and prosperous Viksit Bharat.

ESSAY 02 | VANSH SHARMA
DELHI

"Youth power is both the agent of change and also the beneficiaries of change." This statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi captures the central role of the youth in shaping India's democratic and governance systems. As the nation moves toward the goal of Viksit Bharat, the decisions made today will shape the country for decades, and the youth will be the ones who inherit and lead that future. Their participation ensures that institutions stay accountable, government remains responsive, and national development remains aligned with the realities of the society. A country aiming for long-term stability cannot afford a generation that is politically passive or uninvolved.

Importance of Youth in India's Democratic Structure

India has one of the youngest populations in the world, with around 54 percent of citizens below the age of 25 and nearly two-thirds below 35. This demographic strength gives India a rare opportunity to deepen its democracy. When young citizens participate, voter turnout increases, political accountability becomes stronger, and public institutions face greater scrutiny. Their active questioning exposes gaps in service delivery and pushes leaders to respond with real solutions instead of rhetoric. Youth-led participation also discourages personality-driven or dynastic politics, replacing it with rational engagement. A politically aware young population helps balance democratic processes by bringing in new perspectives, modern expectations, and a clearer understanding of what they want from their elected representatives.

Youth Contributions to Governance and Nation-Building

Young people bring modern thinking and digital literacy into governance spaces, which helps bridge the gap between traditional administrative structures and today's digital society. They understand technology, and online communication better than earlier generations, which pushes governments to modernise and adopt more transparent and efficient systems. Their influence naturally shifts attention toward future-oriented issues such as climate action, artificial intelligence, digital rights, employment generation, and sustainable development. Youth driven innovation is practical, rooted in everyday challenges, and responsive to emerging global trends. Initiatives like Mera Yuva Bharat and the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue are recent examples of efforts made to integrate youth from non-political backgrounds into policy spaces, helping build a leadership pipeline for the future. Since they will

shape new families, create future societies, they have must have a direct stake in how India's future must look like.

Role of Youth in Strengthening Democracy for Viksit Bharat

Youth are central to creating a resilient and future-ready democracy. Their participation supports constant debate, encourages fact-based scrutiny, and reduces the impact of misinformation. Young citizens keep democratic spaces diverse by bringing new viewpoints and weakening inherited or dynasty-based leadership patterns. Their involvement ensures that policies reflect long-term national priorities such as job creation, skill development, clean energy, education quality, and technological advancement. When youth learn governance early, they form a stable leadership chain carrying forward institutional memory while adapting to modern needs. For a country aiming to become Viksit Bharat, a disciplined and informed youth force provides continuity, direction, and energy to national development.

Challenges and Faultlines in Youth Political Engagement

Despite their potential, several challenges weaken youth engagement with democracy and government. Many young citizens, especially at the rural level, lack a clear understanding of how governance works at the union, state, and local levels. This leads to oversimplified opinions, blame-shifting, and unrealistic expectations from leaders. Due to lack of political literacy, emotional reactions to political narratives tend to replace evidence-based thinking. Digital spaces, while enabling awareness and increasing participation, also expose youth to misinformation, polarisation, and manipulated content. Without strong digital literacy, many become vulnerable to propaganda and selective information bubbles. A large portion of youth also limit their political engagement to online expression and avoid ground-level participation in local committees, civic audits, panchayat meetings, or community problem-solving. This disconnect between online activism and real governance weakens the quality of democratic involvement. Additionally, growing cynicism toward institutions creates a belief that systems are corrupt or ineffective, while it is true that the true essence of democracy is the ability to question and criticise, criticism should be backed by proper understanding of the constitutional roles and structural constraints. Leadership skills such as negotiation, communication, and policy drafting are also underdeveloped due to limited exposure and training, creating a gap between enthusiasm and actual capability.

The Way Forward

Despite their potential, several challenges weaken youth engagement with democracy and government. Many young citizens, especially at the rural level, lack a clear understanding of how governance works at the union, state, and local levels. This leads to oversimplified opinions, blame-shifting, and unrealistic expectations from leaders. Due to lack of political literacy, emotional reactions to political narratives tend to replace evidence-based thinking. Digital spaces, while enabling awareness and increasing participation, also expose youth to misinformation, polarisation, and manipulated content. Without strong digital literacy, many become vulnerable to propaganda and selective information bubbles.

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Educational institutions must prioritise political literacy, constitutional understanding, and critical thinking. Digital literacy should help young citizens verify information, identify bias, and avoid manipulation. Exposure to governance through mock parliaments, public policy internships, district administration programmes, and civic fellowships can give youth practical understanding of decision-making processes. Ground-level participation in community meetings, local committees, and civic audits must be encouraged so that political opinions are informed by real experience. Strengthening intergenerational collaboration is also important as it allows youth to combine their innovation and ideas with the institutional knowledge and experience of older generations. This balance ensures continuity and prevents instability in democratic decision-making.

Conclusion

As Swami Vivekananda said "The power of youth is the common wealth for the entire world," likewise Indian Youth's involvement in democracy and government is central to India's journey toward Viksit Bharat. India cannot become developed through reforms alone. It needs youth who are properly guided and prepared. Their demographic strength, innovative mindset, and modern perspective can reshape governance, deepen democracy, and build a capable future leadership. But this potential becomes effective only when supported by political literacy, digital awareness, structured opportunities, and meaningful civic engagement. With proper direction, India's youth can serve as both the agents of change and the responsible custodians of India's democratic future.

India requires structured platforms to enhance youth engagement in democracy and governance. Educational institutions must prioritize political literacy, constitutional understanding, and critical thinking. Digital literacy equips young citizens to verify information, identify bias, and resist manipulation.

Exposure through mock parliaments, public policy internships, district administration programs, and civic fellowships provides practical insights into decision-making. Ground-level involvement in community meetings, local committees, and civic audits ensures opinions stem from real experiences. Strengthening intergenerational collaboration merges youth innovation with elders' institutional knowledge, fostering continuity and stability in democratic processes.

ESSAY 03 | BAVALIYA DHAVALKUMAR SAMANTBHAI
GUJARAT

પ્રસ્તાવના

ભારતભારતભારતભારત વિશ્વનું સૌથી મોટું લોકશાહી રાષ્ટ્ર હોવાને કારણે અહીંના દરેક નાગરિકનું સ્વપ્ન "વિકસિત ભારત 2047" સાથે સીધું જોડાયેલું છે. ભારતના કુલ વસ્તીમાં 60%થી વધુ યુવાનો હોવાથી યુવાશક્તિ ભારતને વિકસિત રાષ્ટ્ર તરફ લઈ જનાર મુખ્ય પરિબળ હશેહશેહશેહશેહશે

શા માટે યુવાનો?

લોકશાહી ત્યારે જ મજબૂત બને છે જ્યારે યુવા માત્ર દર્શક ન રહે, પરંતુ નિર્ણય પ્રક્રિયામાં પણ સક્રિય ભાગીદાર બને. યુવાઓ પાસે નવી વિચારધારા, ટેકનોલોજીકલ સમજ, પ્રશ્ન પૂછવાની હિંમત અને ઝડપથી બદલાવ સ્વીકારવાની ક્ષમતા છે. આ ગુણો ભારતને આધુનિક, પારદર્શક અને વિકસિત બનાવવા માટે ખૂબ અગત્યનાઅગત્યના છે.

1. નીતિનિર્માણમાં સીધી ભાગીદારી (Direct Governance Exposure)
   MyGov Internship: સરકારી વિભાગોમાં વાસ્તવિક કાર્યપ્રણાલીનો અનુભવ
   NITI Aayog Young Professionals: નીતિ વિશ્લેષણ, ડેટા રિસર્ચમાં યુવાનોની પસંદગી
   State & District Fellowship Programs: જિલ્લાઓના વિકાસ પ્રોજેક્ટમાં યુવા નિર્ણય લેશે
   Youth Parliament: યુવાનોને સંસદીય ચર્ચા અને વિચારસરણીનો અનુભવ

2. રાષ્ટ્રીય અભિયાનમાં યુવાઓની આગેવાની
   - Startup India
     ભારત આજે વિશ્વનો ત્રીજો મોટો સ્ટાર્ટઅપ ઈકોસિસ્ટમ છે.
     Startupsમાંથી 55–60% યુવા ઉદ્યોગસાહસિકો દ્વારા
     શરૂ કરેલા છે—જે રોજગારી અને નવા વિચારો બંનેનું સર્જન કરે છે.

   - Digital India
     ગ્રામ્ય-શહેરી ડિજિટલ ગેપ ઘટાડવામાં યુવાનો મુખ્ય ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે
     વિદ્યાર્થીઓ, IT professionals અને યુવા સ્વયંસેવકો દ્વારા લાખો લોકોને ઓનલાઈન સેવાઓ સાથે જોડાયા

   - Fit India Movement
     કોલેજોમાં યુવા Volunteer Groups દ્વારા સ્વસ્થતા અભિયાનને જનમેળો મળ્યો.

3. સ્થાનિક શાસન (Grassroots Governance)
   પંચાયત, નગરપાલિકા, યુવા પરિષદોપરિષદો, યુવા સંસદ વગેરેમાં યુવાનોનો સીધો અવાજ.
   લોકશાહીનું સૌથી મજબૂત સ્વરૂપ હવે Youth-Driven Governance બની રહ્યું.

ભારતની 60% થી વધુ વસ્તી 35 વર્ષથી ઓછી
NSSમાં વર્ષે 30 લાખ+ યુવાનો જોડાય છે

- Startup India હેઠળ 1 લાખ+ સ્ટાર્ટઅપ્સ, યુવા કેન્દ્રિત
  Digital India દ્વારા 13 કરોડથી વધુ નાગરિકો ડિજિટલ સેવાઓ સાથે જોડાયા
  My Bharat Portal મારફતે લાખો યુવાનો જાહેર સેવાઓમાં

મુખ્ય પડકારોપડકારોપડકારો

- બેરોજગારી અને Skill Gap
  ટેકનોલોજી ઝડપથી બદલાય છે—પણ કૌશલ્ય વિકાસ તેની ગતિ સાથે ચાલતું નથી.
- રાજકીય અજાણપણું
  ઘણા યુવાનો લોકશાહી પ્રક્રિયાઓથી અજાણ રહે છે.
- ડિજિટલ ગેપ
  ગામ-શહેરમાં Internet, devices અને training નો અસમાન વિતરણ.
- સામાજિક-આર્થિક અસમાનતા
  સુવર્ણાવસરો બધાં યુવાનોને સમાન રીતે નહિ મળે.
- ઉકેલો (Practical & Clear Solutions) Civic Education શાળા-કોલેજમાં ફરજિયાત કરવી Skill India + Global Requirements આધારિત curriculum ગામડાંમા Digital Resource Centres રચવું Startups માટે mentoring, funding અને incubation facility યુવાનોને decision-making bodies માં Representation (Reserved spaces)

આ ઉકેલો યુવા-કેન્દ્રિત રાષ્ટ્ર નિર્માણ તરફ દોરી જાય છે.

આજનો યુવાન માત્ર રોજગાર શોધી જ નથી રહ્યો, બનાવી પણ રહ્યો છે. કૃષિ, આરોગ્ય, શિક્ષણ અને પર્યાવરણ જેવા વિવિધ ક્ષેત્રે યુવાનો સ્ટાર્ટઅપ દ્વારા દેશને આત્મનિર્ભર બનાવી રહ્યા છે.

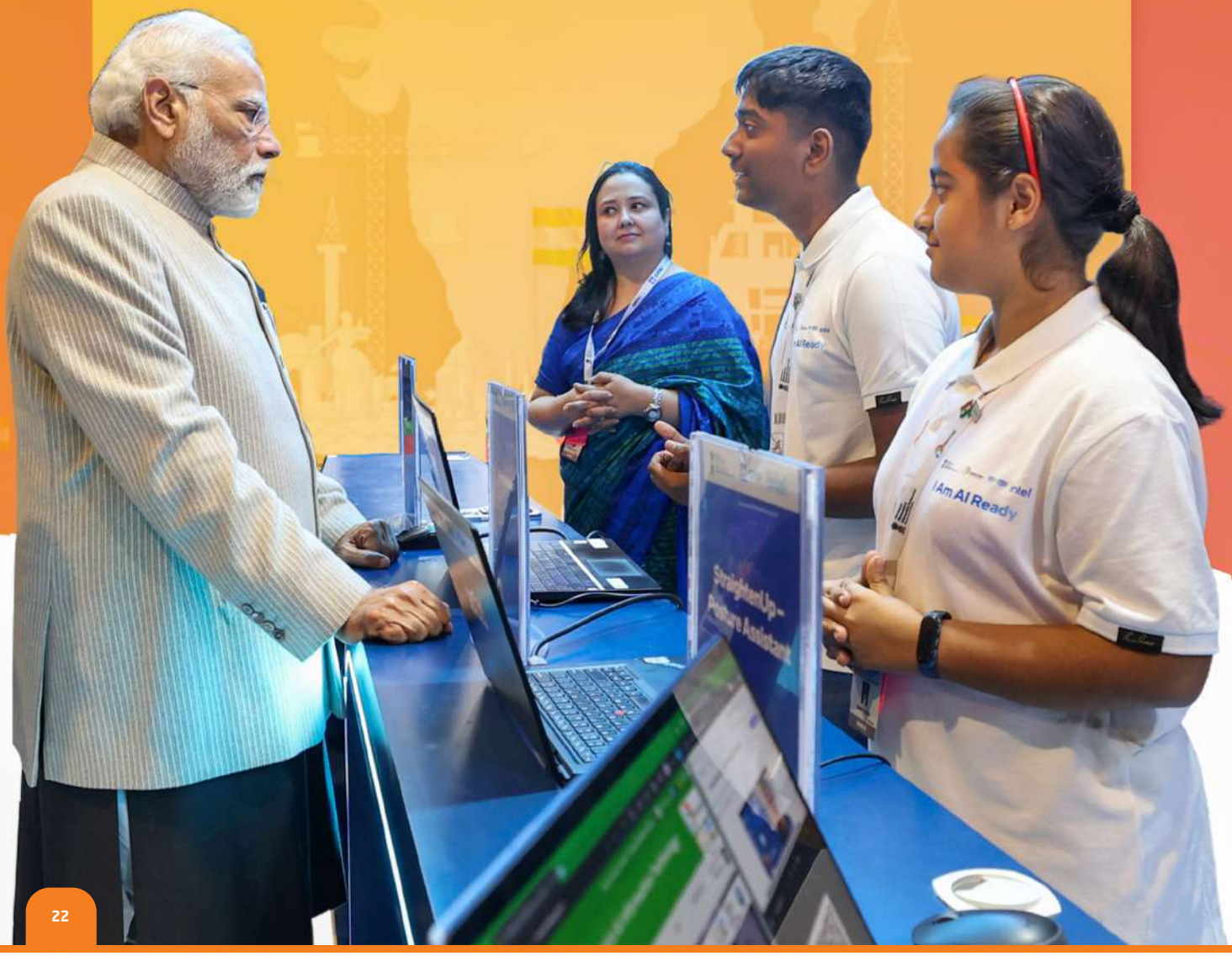
યુવાનો સક્રિય તો બનશે પરંતુ અમુક પરિબળો તેમને રાજકારણમાં આવવા અડચણરૂપ સાબિત થઈ રહ્યા છે. જેમકે આર્થિક સ્થિતિ સારી ન હોવી , રાજકારણની કામગીરી વિશે અજાણ હોવું, નિષ્ફળ થવાની ચિંતા અને કૌશલ્યનો અભાવ હોવો.

ભારતનું ભવિષ્ય યુવાનોના કાંધ પર નિર્ભર છે. લોકશાહી અને શાસનમાં તેમની સક્રિય ભાગીદારી ભારતને 2047માં વિકસિત રાષ્ટ્ર બનાવવા માટે મૂળભૂત શરત છે.

યુવાનોની શક્તિ, નવીનતા, જુસ્સો, નાગરિક જાગૃતિ અને નેતૃત્વ— આ પાંચ તત્ત્વો ભારતના વિકાસને ગતિ આપે છે. યુવાઓને સશક્ત કરવું એટલે ભારતને સશક્ત કરવું. લોકશાહી + યુવા શક્તિ = વિકસિત ભારત 2047 નું સુત્ર.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

MAKE IN INDIA
MAKE FOR THE WORLD



ESSAY 01 | JAGPREET SINGH
HARYANA

The concept of Make in India, Make for the World is to make India a global manufacturing hub for India as well as for the world. It will boost the national economy by exporting manufactured items to the world. The establishment of new industries will increase employment opportunities. This will also increase our GDP. Our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Make in India initiative in 2014 and Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in 2020. Policies have been framed to attract Foreign Direct Investment and Domestic investment. India's progress in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking moving from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2020 shows the simplified regulation of Tax structure by the government. Reforms like Goods and Services Tax (GST) and insolvency and Bankruptcy code helped in improving its rank. The World Bank discontinued the report after 2020, so the data is upto 2020 only. The initiative also increased Foreign Direct Investment between 2014 and 2024. India became the second largest producer of mobile phones in the world.

We have so many challenges which we need to overcome like there are so many regulatory hurdles. Environmental clearance takes so much time and becomes a major hurdle in industrial development. Our transportation system is not satisfactory and despite so many efforts by the Government, it lags behind developed countries. There is a shortage of skilled labour and technical staff to meet the requirements of modern industries. We need to make a dedicated freight corridor and integrate multimodal transport networks with industrial clusters to reduce logistics cost. To enhance the efficiency we need to streamline custom clearance and single window approvals. The transit delays can be reduced by developing inland waterways and by port modernisation and developing warehouse infrastructure.

To make India a global manufacturing hub we need to focus on free trade zones and regional trade hubs. As skilled labour is of utmost importance, there is a requirement to reform labour laws. Flexible hiring policies and sector specific wage policies will generate employment. To make our work force future ready apprenticeship programmes aligned with technologies like Artificial Intelligence and semi-conductor need to be started. For innovation, Vocational education and Industries-Academia to be correlated. There is a requirement to enhance MSMEs. To improve liquidity for small manufacturers, Mudra Loans have to be expanded. To increase competitiveness, there is a requirement for MSMEs to participate in global supply chains through cluster based development technologies. To reduce import dependency, manufacturing of local components needs to be supported. Policies for acquisition of land at low cost will attract investment. Low cost and uninterrupted power supply in industrial zones will also help in its development. To reduce fiscal constraints, Public Private Partnership in infrastructure financing needs to be carried out. For sustainable industrialisation, green energy grids should be mae To improve supply cains, high speed freight systems should be integrated with main

industrial zones. India must strengthen domestic manufacturing to reduce dependency on imports. To reduce dependency on imports, production linked incentives schemes and Research & Development incentives need to be given. For self-reliance, joint ventures and technology transfer policies are required. Special economic zones need to be developed for domestic production of components. We need to concentrate on Research & Development to create a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem. Technology transfer policies and better patent protection can have great effects on innovation. In Research & Development, Public Private Partnership will boost commercialisation of technology.

To diversify export destinations, bilateral agreements in emerging markets should be done. To improve trade competitiveness, E-Commerce integration and global marketing to be facilitated. Domestic industries should be integrated with multinational supply chains to improve exports. We can learn from other successful countries like China and Mexico. Mexico's manufacturing policy had focused on attracting foreign investment through incentives like Tax breaks and favourable trade agreements. It started the Maquiladora programme in 1965, which allowed foreign companies to import raw material duty free and export finished products. Mexico's manufacturing output has shown growth with a 21.23% increase in 2021 compared to 2020 due to free trade agreements like the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement. China had launched its Made in China 2025 Policy in 2015 with the aim of becoming a manufacturing powerhouse in key technology sectors like Electric vehicles and new energy saving vehicles.

Presently, China has achieved indigenous control in raw material processing, components, finished batteries and manufacturing new electric vehicles. For achieve this, local governments took stakes in electric vehicle company's suppliers and worked with electric vehicle leader Tesla to localise the supply chain and strengthen local talent. Battery manufacturers also vertically integrated supply chains for critical battery minerals like Lithium and Graphite.

To conclude, the Make in India, Make for the World concept will undoubtedly boost the economy of India. It will also generate employment which will eradicate unemployment in India. Reducing unemployment in youth will also reduce poverty in India. Overall development will reduce dependency on other countries for our requirements. The indigenisation of Defence sector manufacturing will reduce our financial load of export from other countries. To fulfil all these, policy reforms, technology advancement, setting up R&D hubs and supporting MSME sectors and better transportation systems need to be developed. Fast clearance and swift decision making can make India a manufacturing hub for the World.

ESSAY 02 | SNEHA ROY
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The vision of modern India's economic trajectory is encapsulated in a powerful triad of interconnected policies: Aatmanirbhar Bharat , make in India , and make for the world . Far from being a call for protectionism , this philosophy represents a strategic shift designed to transform India into a resilient, self - sufficient , and globally indispensable economic power. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan serves as the overarching national objective, while Make in India is the crucial industrial strategy to achieve this goal , and make for the world defines the ultimate global ambition.

The foundation of this self-reliance movement rests on five core pillars: Economy, Infrastructure,System, Vibrant Demography , and Demand . The underlying purpose of Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not to isolate India from the global economy but to ensure its economy is strong enough to withstand global shocks and contribute meaningfully to the world . By focusing on structural reforms in sectors like agriculture, mining, defence, and space , the mission seeks to upgrade the country's technological and industrial systems. The emphasis on strengthening domestic demand, coupled with investing in India's vibrant and youthful demography, aims to create a powerful internal consumption engine that fuels sustainable growth. The primary mechanism for realizing this self-reliance is the Make in India initiative, launched in 2014 .

This program specifically targets the stagnation of the manufacturing sector, aiming to increase its contribution to the GDP and create millions of jobs. Its success is driven by comprehensive policy reforms, notably the improved Ease of doing business ranking , the liberalization of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in key sectors , and the introduction of production- linked incentive (PLI) schemes. The PLI schemes , in particular, have been instrumental in encouraging large - scale manufacturing in electronics, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles by offering incentives on incremental production. This focus has led to significant successes, transforming India into the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones and establishing domestic supply chains in previously import-reliant sectors . Thus pursuit of self-sufficiency culminates in the ambition to 'Make for the World'. This phrase reframes self - reliance as global responsibility. By building domestic capacity and producing goods of world - class quality? India aims to become a trusted , resilient, and crucial hub in global supply chains , offering the world an alternative to concentrated manufacturing bases. Examples of this global contribution are already evident , particularly in the pharmaceutical and defence sectors. India's demonstrated ability to produce and export vaccines and essential meds during global health crises

cemented its image as the " pharmacy of the world " Similarly , the growing indigenisation of defence production is not just about national security but also about becoming an exporter of military hardware to friendly nations , contributing to global security and diversifying defense markets.

In conclusion, the movement to establish Aatmanirbhar Bharat is a holistic national project that utilizes the Make in India strategy to build domestic capacity. Its ultimate goal, Make for the World, elevates India's self - reliance from an inward - looking concept to an outward- facing global commitment. By focusing on quantum economic leaps, robust infrastructure, and quality manufacturing, India is strategically positioning itself to be a powerful engine for global economic growth in the 21st century, ensuring its strength for the entire world .

ESSAY 03 | SUSHMITA DAS
ASSAM

আত্মনির্ভর ভারত: একুশের দোরগোড়ায় দাঁড়িয়ে থাকা এক যুবকের ইস্তেহার

আমরা একবিংশ শতাব্দীর সেই সন্ধিক্ষণে দাঁড়িয়ে, যেখানে হাতে স্মার্টফোন আর চোখে বিশ্বজয়ের স্বপ্ন। আমাদের বয়স এখন ১৯-না পুরোপুরি ছেলেমানুষ, না পুরোপুরি প্রবীণ, স্বপ্ন ও বাস্তবের মাঝামাঝি এক উত্তাল সময় । চারপাশে যখন বিশ্ব অর্থনীতিতে নতুন মেরুকরণ, তখন আমাদের দেশের পক্ষ থেকে উচ্চারিত হয়েছে এক বিপ্লবী মন্ত্র: "আত্মনির্ভর ভারত: মেক ইন ইন্ডিয়া, মেক ফর দ্য ওয়ার্ল্ড। এটি কেবল একটি সরকারি স্লোগান নয়, বরং এটি সেই তরুণ প্রজন্মের জন্য এক খোলা চ্যালেঞ্জ, যারা গতানুগতিক ছক ভেঙে নতুন করে ইতিহাস গড়তে প্রস্তুত। এই ধারণাটি কেবল নিজের পায়ে দাঁড়ানো নয়, বরং নিজের তৈরি পণ্য এবং উদ্ভাবনী শক্তি দিয়ে গোটা পৃথিবীকে প্রভাবিত করার এক মহৎ উদ্দেশ্য। আমরা বুঝতে পারি, একটি আধুনিক জাতি কেবল পরের তৈরি পণ্য ব্যবহার করে বড় হতে পারে না, তাকে অবশ্যই সৃষ্টির কেন্দ্রে থাকতে হবে।

আত্মনির্ভরতা মানে কি শুধু সব কিছু দেশের ভেতরেই তৈরি করা ? সময়ের প্রেক্ষাপটে এই সংজ্ঞার বদল ঘটেছে। পুরনো দিনে আত্মনির্ভরতার মানে ছিল অর্থনৈতিক বিচ্ছিন্নতা বা আত্মকেন্দ্রিকতা, কিন্তু বর্তমান বিশ্বায়নের যুগে ১৯ বছর বয়সী আমরা জানি, বিচ্ছিন্নতা নয়, বরং সমন্বয় হলো প্রগতির মূলমন্ত্র। বর্তমান আত্মনির্ভর ভারত' বিশ্ব অর্থনীতিতে নিজেদের স্থায়িত্ব ও মর্যাদা নিশ্চিত করার কথা বলছে। এখানে 'আত্মনির্ভর' মানে হলো এমনভাবে নিজস্ব সক্ষমতা তৈরি করা যাতে কোনো বৈশ্বিক সংকটে বা সাপ্লাই চেইনে বাধা এলেও যেন আমাদের দেশের প্রতিরক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, বা কৃষিক্ষেত্র সামান্যতম ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত না হয়। আমরা কেবল পশ্চিমা দেশগুলোর বা অন্য কোনো শক্তিশালী অর্থনীতির ক্রেতা হব না, আমরা হব স্রষ্টা যারা নিজস্ব উদ্ভাবনী শক্তিতে বিশ্বাসী। এই মানসিকতাই হলো আত্মনির্ভর ভারতের ভিত্তি, যা ভারতকে বিশ্ব মঞ্চে মাথা উঁচু করে দাঁড়াতে সাহায্য করবে।

এই লক্ষ্যপূরণের প্রথম ধাপ হলো 'মেক ইন ইন্ডিয়া' উদ্যোগটিকে আরও সূক্ষম ও দূরদর্শী রূপে গ্রহণ করা। এই উদ্যোগটি শুরু হয়েছিল মূলত উৎপাদন বা ক্ষেত্রকে চাঙ্গা করার জন্য। কিন্তু আমাদের কাছে 'মেক ইন ইন্ডিয়া'র গভীর অর্থ হলো 'ডিজাইন ইন ইন্ডিয়া' এবং 'উদ্ভাবন ইন ইন্ডিয়া'। অর্থাৎ, আমরা কেবল শ্রম দিয়ে পণ্য তৈরি করব না, বরং পণ্যের নকশা, মৌলিক উদ্ভাবন, এবং নতুন প্রযুক্তির পেটেন্ট যেন আমাদের দেশেই হয়। একটি অত্যাধুনিক সেমিকন্ডাক্টর চিপ, বা পরিবেশবান্ধব ব্যাটারি প্রযুক্তির নকশা যেন আমাদের তরুণ প্রজন্মের মস্তিষ্ক থেকে আসে। আমরা যেন কেবল প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহারকারী না হয়ে উঠি, বরং টেকনোলজি ইন ইন্ডিয়া অর্থাৎ, কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (AI), সাইবার সিকিউরিটি, রিনিউয়েবল এনার্জি এবং ডেটা সায়েন্সের মতো ভবিষ্যতের প্রযুক্তিগুলো ভারতেই তৈরি করি। এই গুণগত মানের উপর জোর দেওয়ার মাধ্যমেই ভারতীয় পণ্যের বিশ্বাসযোগ্যতা তৈরি হবে, যার ফলে "Made in India" ট্যাগটি কেবল সস্তা শ্রমের প্রতীক না হয়ে "High Quality" এর সমার্থক হয়ে উঠবে।

এই 'মেক ইন ইন্ডিয়া' উদ্যোগের সফল বাস্তবায়নের ফলে প্রতিরক্ষা, ইলেকট্রনিক্স এবং ফার্মাসিউটিক্যালসের মতো গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ক্ষেত্রগুলিতে বিদেশি নির্ভরতা অনেকটাই কমিয়ে আনা সম্ভব হয়েছে। বিশেষত, স্বাস্থ্য ক্ষেত্রে সংকটের সময় যখন বিশ্বজুড়ে ওষুধ ও টিকা নিয়ে হাহাকার দেখা দেয়, তখন ভারত নিজেদের সক্ষমতা প্রমাণ করে। এই সক্ষমতা শুধুমাত্র নিজেদের অভ্যন্তরীণ চাহিদা মেটানোতে সীমাবদ্ধ নয়, বরং তা গোটা বিশ্বের কাছে ভারতের নির্ভরযোগ্যতার বার্তাও বহন করে। এই প্রক্রিয়ায় দেশে নতুন চাকরির সুযোগ সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে, যা আমাদের মতো যুবসমাজের জন্য এক বিরাট আশা। তবে, উৎপাদন বাড়ালেই চলবে না, তাকে অবশ্যই পরিবেশবান্ধব এবং

দীর্ঘস্থায়ী হতে হবে।

এখানে আমাদের মতো যুবকদের ভূমিকা হলো এমন পরিবেশবান্ধব প্রযুক্তি এবং প্রক্রিয়া তৈরি করা, যা ভবিষ্যতের পৃথিবীকে সুরক্ষিত রাখবে।

এই প্রক্রিয়ার দ্বিতীয় ও চূড়ান্ত ধাপ হলো 'মেক ফর দ্য ওয়ার্ল্ড'। আমরা যদি কেবল নিজেদের জন্য পণ্য বানাই, তবে বৈশ্বিক অর্থনীতিতে আমাদের উত্থান সীমিত থাকবে। বিশ্ব অর্থনীতিতে নিজেদের স্থায়িত্ব ও মর্যাদা প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হলে আমাদের বৈশ্বিক সাপ্লাই চেইনের (Global Supply Chain) এক অবিচ্ছেদ্য এবং অপরিহার্য অংশ হতে হবে। আমাদের দেশ থেকে উৎপাদিত পণ্য যখন গোটা বিশ্বে ছড়িয়ে পড়বে, তখন তা কেবল অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি আনবে না, বরং আন্তর্জাতিক মঞ্চে ভারতের অবস্থান আরও মজবুত করবে। বর্তমান ভূ-রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতিতে বিশ্ব এখন উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র হিসেবে বিকল্পের সন্ধান করছে। এই সময়ে ভারত তার স্থিতিশীলতা, বৃহৎ বাজার এবং গণতান্ত্রিক কাঠামো নিয়ে একটি নির্ভরযোগ্য এবং শক্তিশালী উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র হিসেবে বিশ্বের সামনে নিজেদের তুলে ধরতে পারে। পণ্য ছাড়াও, আমাদের সফটওয়্যার, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা ও স্টার্টআপ ধারণাগুলিও বিশ্বের কাছেরপ্তানি করা উচিত। আমরা কেবল শ্রম রপ্তানি করব না, রপ্তানি করব আমাদের জ্ঞান এবং উদ্ভাবন।

একজন ১৯ বছর বয়সী হিসেবে, এই বিশাল লক্ষ্য অর্জনে আমাদের ভূমিকা সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ-আমরাই এই পরিবর্তনের ইঞ্জিন। আমাদের উচিত চাকরি খোঁজা নয়, বরং উদ্যোক্তা হওয়া-অর্থাৎ, চাকরির সুযোগ তৈরি করা। তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি থেকে শুরু করে কৃষি ও স্বাস্থ্য-প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রে নতুন উদ্ভাবনী স্টার্টআপ নিয়ে আসতে হবে। কেবল ডিগ্রি নয়, হাতে-কলমে দক্ষতা অর্জন করতে হবে। আমাদের নিজেদের ভবিষ্যৎ শিল্পের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী, যেমন ডেটা অ্যানালিটিক্স, কোডিং, বা অ্যাডভান্সড ম্যানুফ্যাকচারিং-এ দক্ষতা বাড়াতে হবে। একই সাথে, দেশীয় পণ্যের প্রতি আস্থা রেখে সেগুলিকে ব্যবহার করা এবং সেগুলির উন্নতির জন্য গঠনমূলক সমালোচনা করা-এই ভোট ফর লোকাল মানসিকতাও তৈরি করতে হবে। যখন আমরা দেশীয় পণ্যের ওপর গর্ব করব, তখন তা আপনা থেকেই বিশ্বমানের হয়ে উঠবে। সবচেয়ে বড় কথা, আমাদের মধ্যে থাকতে হবে প্রশ্ন করার এবং প্রথাগত ধ্যান-ধারণার বাইরে গিয়ে নতুন কিছু শেখার এবং তৈরি করার মানসিকতা।

আত্মনির্ভর ভারত একটি নিছক অর্থনৈতিক লক্ষ্য নয়, এটি একটি সামগ্রিক মানসিকতা পরিবর্তনের আহ্বান । এটি আমাদের দেশের ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্য থেকে প্রেরণা নিয়ে ভবিষ্যতের দিকে তাকানোর আহ্বান। ১৯ বছর বয়সীদের জন্য এটি একটি সোনালী সুযোগ নিজেদের প্রতিভা ও উদ্ভাবনী শক্তিকে দেশের কাজে লাগিয়ে বিশ্বকে দেখানোর যে, ভারতীয়রা কেবল অনুসরণকারী নয়, বরং পথপ্রদর্শক। আমরা যদি আমাদের অদম্য সাহস, উদ্ভাবনী ক্ষমতা এবং কঠোর পরিশ্রমের মন্ত্রকে একত্রিত করতে পারি, তবে 'মেক ইন ইন্ডিয়া' খুব শীঘ্রই বিশ্বের প্রতিটি কোণায় "Made by India, Loved by the World" হয়ে প্রতিধ্বনিত হবে। এই প্রতিশ্রুতির সঙ্গেই আমরা ভারতবাসীরা একশক্তিশালী ও বিশ্ব-নেতৃত্বদানকারী ভারতের জন্ম দিতে পারব।

MAKING INDIA THE START-UP CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



ESSAY 01 | SHADAB SHAKIL KASHMANI

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU

Introduction

"A startup does not mean a billion-dollar company where thousands of people work. It is about employing even five people and developing India." — Mr Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India.

In India, rapidly growing startups are powered by a large young population and widespread technology adoption. As of 2025, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognised startups in India crossed 200,000 from just 350 in 2014. This growth has turned India into the third significant startup hub around the globe, flaunting over 100 unicorns and several "decacorns" worth $10B plus, such as Flipkart, BYJU'S, Swiggy, and Nykaa. Such enterprises typify India's movement from being job-seekers to job-creators. Much of that momentum comes from India's demographic dividend: it has 112 million people aged 20–24, compared with 94 million in China, and about 32% of college graduates now prefer starting a business over traditional practice. At the same time, more than 800 million Indians (55% of the population) were online by early 2025, giving startups digital reach across cities and villages. In short, a tech-savvy youth, abundant internet/mobile connectivity, and rising entrepreneurial ambition are at the core of India's startup growth.

Government Initiatives and Policy Support

The government of India has successfully promoted entrepreneurship through policy reforms and funding. The Startup India initiative launched in 2016 has been pivotal; this provides easier regulations and funding support. For instance, it launched an easy procedure for registering a company and self-certification under labour and environmental laws, providing for more inclusivity for all the start-ups. Additionally, it also offers tax exemptions to eligible startups for three years in order to provide them better infrastructure and facilities to grow their startups. The Govt. had set up the Fund-of-Funds scheme (FFS) for startups with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore. By the end of 2024, FFS had sanctioned more than ₹6,886 crore through SIDBI, which resulted into ₹21,276 crore of investment into 1,173 startups. Further, different state governments and agencies run incubators and hackathons and provide subsidies in order to facilitate startups in India. For example, events like Startup India Innovation Week and Mahakumbh for Startups provide better platforms for the new startups to showcase their potential to the world at large. Overall, these policy measures assisted DPIIT-recognised startups' growth from around 500 in the year 2016 to 159,157 in January 2025 (approximate expectation), together creating 1.66 million direct jobs.

Youth and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Social diversity and Youth of India are powering this startup revolution. Government jobs in India are limited to 112 million young adults, due to which the idea of entrepreneurship has become an attractive option. In the present time, even college students are attracted to this field. Survey shows that about 32% of graduates give priority to starting a business. The government and a non-profit organisation (NGO) together carry out an outreach programme to boost startups in India. For example, in the year 2019, the Catalytic Entrepreneurship tour in Uttar Pradesh engaged around 1,000 rural youngsters and visited 380 villages to promote the idea of business and startups. In the recent period, around 40% of new startups come from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, reflecting the huge positive impact of government initiatives and policies. There are various youth-led startups which focus on local challenges such as technology in agriculture, low-cost education in small towns and addressing the problem of gaps in healthcare. For example, now startups have developed drones which can be used in a way that provides an efficient water supply to crops and reduces overuse of water. Also, green-energy and mobility startups like Zypp e-bike services are expanding eco-friendly solutions in smaller cities. These examples are the evidence which shows that India's young innovators leverage technology to meet everyday needs.

Global Comparisons and Challenges

In global terms, India stands in third position after the US and China in startup scale. The StartupBlink index placed India at 22nd place worldwide; however, it reflects that India's growth rate is around 16.8% per year, which is even more than top-tier ecosystems. Even after success in recent times, there are certain challenges which need to be solved. Funding seems to be down by 18% on a year-on-year basis. Startups are behind in attracting trained talent and capital towards them, which is a grave concern. Additionally, infrastructure gaps in Tier-3 towns, complexities in areas like data privacy or defence, and global competition pose hurdles. A balanced view needs to be taken in order to solve these issues and build a stronger infrastructure to lead global partners.

Conclusion

A bunch of factors align to position India as the world's startup capital. This nation had a youth population and technological & digital infrastructure in place, assisting it to drive growth. Government policies, seed funding, subsidies and other regulatory reforms have boosted innovation across the country. Startups have already transformed industries, e-commerce, education, and renewable energy, resulting in job creation. Building on the momentum of Viksit Bharat, India can realise its aim of becoming "Developed India" (Viksit Bharat) and the startup capital of the world, along with inclusive growth resulting into next wave of global innovation.

ESSAY 02 | SANSKRITI BHARADWAJ
CHANDIGARH

When I imagine my future, I see myself growing in a country that gives every young dreamer the chance to create, to innovate, and to build. Like many Indians, I want a life where healthcare is reliable, education is empowering, incomes are high, and basic services like electricity, clean water and transport never fail me. But as an aspiring entrepreneur, I have a desire to have a startup for which I need to have a large customer base, a robust infrastructure, advanced technology, and economic opportunities. A nation where my ideas can take flight, where technology meets opportunity, and where creating a startup is not a privilege but a possibility available to every young Indian.

That is why the idea of a Viksit Bharat is not just a national mission; it is a personal dream. Because when a country becomes developed, entrepreneurship stops being a struggle and starts becoming a culture.

India has already built an impressive base.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana reforms in MSME (Micro, Small & Medium enterprises) sectors have expanded financial inclusion & employment.

The Government e-marketplace has also enhanced efficiency.

The Startup India Fund Scheme (SISFS) initiative provides financial assistance to early-stage startups for a variety of activities like proof of concept, prototype development & market entry. Yet, despite all this progress, the dream of making India the Startup Capital of the World demands much more. Where we falter, we must transform: -

Innovation shouldn't have a PIN code

Today, India's brightest startup clusters are concentrated in a handful of cities. Most of the thriving ecosystems are in cities like Delhi & Bengaluru, startups in smaller cities often struggle with inadequate digital & physical infrastructure, limited access to quality mentorship and networking opportunities.

Failure must not be just neighbourhood gossip

There is still a societal stigma around business failure, a persistent cultural mindset towards risks of entrepreneurship, which discourages potential funders. This mindset doesn't just kill ideas — it kills confidence. We must normalise trial, error, and reinvention. Government & industry efforts are needed to encourage risk-taking & highlight entrepreneurship as a viable and respected career path.

R&D needs rocket fuel

These should be a major focus on increased R&D investment in the private sector (currently less than 1% GDP), as accessing this capital is complex & slow, and there is a particular need for highly robust funding mechanisms, especially high-risk deep-tech product-based ventures that typically require more time & capital for R&D (research & development) than current schemes.

Bureaucratic Complexities

Startups face bureaucratic hurdles and complex regulatory procedures with varying rules across different states. There should be "national single-window clearance system" to further reduce red tape & enable faster market entry & scaling of operations.

Need for Stronger Corporate Governance

Recently, as we saw, there were high-profile cases of financial mismanagement in some startups, which raised concerns among investors. The government & industry bodies need to work together to strengthen governance standards, mentorship on ethical conduct & financial discipline to build greater investor trust & attract sustainable long-term capital.

Limited Global Collaboration

India can benefit from more tech innovation bridges from global partnerships to have knowledge exchange, expand access to international markets, and attract global talent & expertise from the Indian diaspora.

Skills must match the future

Most importantly of them all is that for a startup, firstly you need knowledge and skills related to industry requirements also rather than only the skills taught in academic institutions like schools and colleges. Particularly in emerging fields like AI, machine learning, and data analytics. India needs massive investment in practical, industry-focused skill development and deeper industry-academia collaboration. This is how India will create builders, not just employees.

The Next 20 Years Will Define the Next 200. India does not lack talent, ambition, or courage. What we need now is the right environment — one that supports risk, rewards creativity, and celebrates problem-solvers. If we strengthen our institutions, empower our youth, bridge our cities, and boldly invest in future technologies, then making India the Startup Capital of the World is not just possible — it is inevitable.

Viksit Bharat 2047 is not only a government vision.
It is the dream of millions of young Indians like me and together, we can build a country where ideas don't just survive... They thrive.

ESSAY 03 | ARCHITA DEY
MAHARASHTRA

The title of "Start-Up Capital of the World" is not a trophy to be won, but a complex ecosystem to be engineered. For India, this is not a distant dream but a national project of monumental scale, akin to building a new digital republic. The blueprint for this project rests on three foundational pillars: laying a bedrock of grassroots innovation, constructing a supportive and agile regulatory scaffolding, and, most importantly, wiring the entire structure with a global-first mindset. As the visionary A.P.J. Abdul Kalam implored, "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep." The dream of a startup-powered India is one that should energize an entire generation into relentless wakefulness and action.

Foundation: The Bedrock of Grassroots "Bharat"

The first pillar moves beyond the well-trodden narrative of urban tech hubs. The true, untapped potential of India's startup revolution lies in its Tier-2, Tier-3 cities and rural hinterlands collectively known as "Bharat." This is where problems of logistics, agricultural supply chains, healthcare access, and financial inclusion represent massive opportunities. The future unicorns will not only be built in India but for India's core challenges. Entrepreneurs who understand the nuanced realities of small-town supply chains or the credit needs of rural artisans are building models with immense scalability and resilience. This is the essence of Jugaad refined into a scalable business philosophy. As Ratan Tata wisely noted, "I don't believe in taking right decisions. I take decisions and then make them right." This spirit of iterative, ground-up problem-solving must become our national innovation strategy, turning local solutions into global exports.

Scaffolding: The Architecture of Enablement

A grand vision requires a robust support structure. The second pillar is the architectural scaffolding provided by policy, capital, and culture. Initiatives like Startup India and the revolutionary India Stack (UPI, Aadhaar, OCEN) have acted as powerful force multipliers, creating a unified digital playing field. However, the next phase of construction requires more nuanced engineering. We need to move from generic incentives to specialized frameworks for deep-tech, cleantech, and biotech sectors where India can lead. Venture capital must evolve to provide not just funding but patient, strategic mentorship for long- term growth. Crucially,

we must actively dismantle the cultural fear of failure. A startup ecosystem that stigmatizes collapse is like a building with no emergency exits; it discourages the very risk-taking essential for groundbreaking innovation. The scaffold must be strong enough to support ambition yet flexible enough to absorb the shocks of failure, allowing entrepreneurs to safely rebuild.

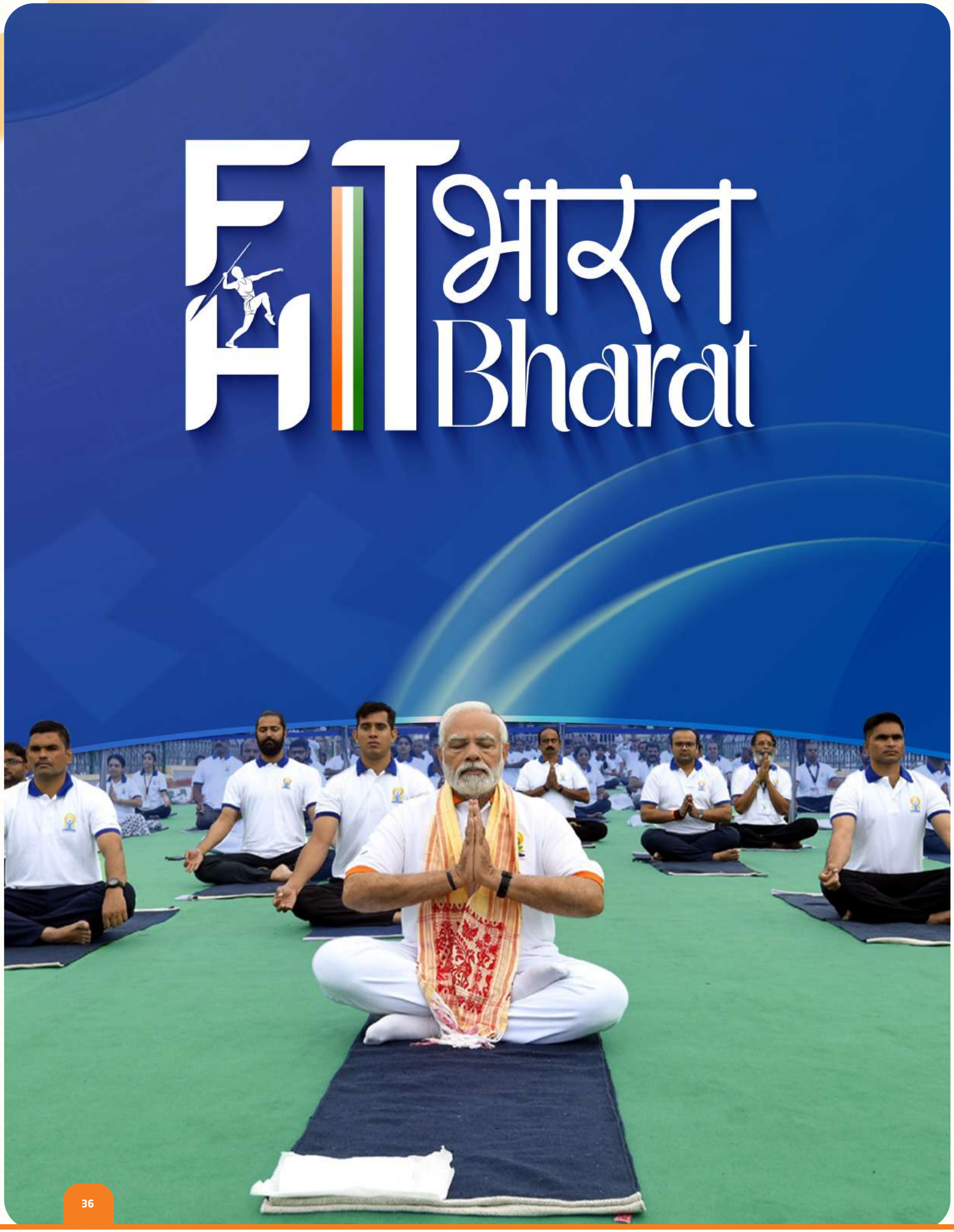
The Blueprint's Wiring: A Global-First Mindset

The third and most critical pillar is the electrical wiring that powers the entire structure: a global-first mindset. To be the world's capital, our startups cannot be content with the domestic market. They must be engineered for global relevance from their very inception. This means prioritizing world-class product design, securing international intellectual property, and cultivating a brand synonymous with quality and innovation, not just cost-effectiveness. The success of companies like Zoho, which bootstrapped its way to global SaaS dominance without ever leaving its Indian headquarters, is a powerful testament to what is possible. It echoes the words of Swami Vivekananda: "Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life... think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea... This is the way to success." For India, that one idea must be global leadership.

Of course, the consatruction site faces headwinds: bureaucratic inertia, regulatory cholesterol, and a talent drain in niche sectors. Addressing these requires a public-private partnership that acts not as a regulator but as a co-creator, simplifying the "ease of doing business" into a lived reality for every founder.

In conclusion, making India the start-up capital of the world is an act of collective national architecture. It is a deliberate, multi-generational project that we must will into existence. By pouring a foundation of grassroots innovation, erecting a scaffold of enlightened policy and capital, and wiring it all with an unwavering global ambition, we are not merely predicting the future. We are actively drafting its blueprint. The world is watching the rise of this new digital republic. It is now our task to ensure its design is so visionary, its structure so sound, and its spirit so entrepreneurial that the world has no choice but to recognize it as its capital.

The foundation is laid; the time to build is now


FIT भारत
Bharat

ESSAY 01 | BHAWAN SINGH GURJAR
MADHYA PRADESH

तन की ताकत, मन का मान,
फिटनेस है भारत की पहचान।
2047 का स्वप्न तभी खिले दिखेगा,
जब हर घर स्वास्थ्य से भरेगा।"

किसी भी राष्ट्र की शक्ति केवल उसकी सीमाओं, सेनाओं या संपत्ति से नहीं मापी जाती है, बल्कि वास्तविक क्षमता उसके नागरिकों में होती है, जिनके शरीर स्वस्थ, मन शांत और संकल्प अटल हों। भारत हजारों वर्षों से इसी सिद्धांत को अपनाता आया है।

प्राचीन अखाड़ों के पहलवानों से लेकर ऋषि-मुनियों के अनुशासित योग तप और आज के **डिजिटल फिटनेस** युग तक स्वास्थ्य हमेशा भारतीय सभ्यता की पहचान रहा है। **योग, आयुर्वेद, ध्यान और प्राकृतिक जीवनशैली** जैसी भारतीय परंपराएँ हजारों वर्षों से मानव शरीर और मन को संतुलित बनाए रखने का मार्ग दिखाती रही हैं। इतिहास साक्षी है कि **भारत की सभ्यता "सुदृढ़ शरीर – समर्थ राष्ट्र"** के सिद्धांत पर आधारित रही है। चरक संहिता में रोगों की रोकथाम को सर्वोत्तम चिकित्सा बताया गया, जबकि सुश्रुत संहिता में शल्य चिकित्सा और शारीरिक सुदृढ़ता को सर्वोच्च मूल्य दिया गया। मध्यकालीन **भारत में योद्धाओं का कुश्ती प्रशिक्षण, मराठाओं का गतिशील युद्ध (गति, फुर्ती और रणनीति आधारित युद्ध), सिख परंपरा में "निहंग" मार्शल आर्ट** ने भारत में शारीरिक क्षमता को बढ़ावा दिया। उस समय फिटनेस केवल व्यक्तिगत नहीं, बल्कि सामूहिक रक्षा और समाज की शक्ति का प्रतीक थी। औपनिवेशिक काल में शरीर को मजबूत बनाना राष्ट्रवाद का एक रूप बन गया था। भगत सिंह, चंद्रशेखर आज़ाद और उधम सिंह जैसे क्रांतिकारियों के लिए सुदृढ़ शरीर संघर्ष की अनिवार्य तैयारी था। परंतु स्वतंत्रता के बाद धीरे-धीरे फिटनेस भारत की प्राथमिकताओं से पीछे छूटती चली गई।
स्वामी विवेकानंद ने कहा था – "पहले शरीर को मजबूत बनाओ, तभी तुम्हारे भीतर ज्ञान स्थिर होगा।"

वर्तमान भारत : फिटनेस को राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता देने की दिशा
आज का भारत इस मोड़ पर खड़ा है, जहाँ फिटनेस केवल व्यक्तिगत आदत नहीं, बल्कि राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकता और विकास का आधार बन चुकी है। बदलते जीवन-शैली, शहरीकरण और तकनीक आधारित कार्य संस्कृति ने स्वास्थ्य और फिटनेस को जन आंदोलन की तरह विस्तार देने की आवश्यकता उत्पन्न की है।

फिट इंडिया मूवमेंट (2019) ने खेल, दौड़ना, योगासन और सामान्य शारीरिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देकर आम नागरिकों को सक्रिय जीवन अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित किया। "फिटनेस प्रोटोकॉल" के माध्यम से नागरिकों को चलना, दौड़ना, योग, संतुलित आहार अपनाने और स्क्रीन टाइम कम करने का संदेश दिया गया।

खेलो इंडिया और TOPS ने भारत के खेल परिदृश्य को पूरी तरह बदल दिया। नीरज चोपड़ा, मीराबाई चानू, पीवी सिंधु जैसे खिलाड़ियों ने वैश्विक मंच पर भारत का नया आत्मविश्वास दिखाया। खेलो इंडिया ने 200+ से अधिक उभरते प्रतिभाओं को समर्थन देकर यह सिद्ध किया कि जब किसी राष्ट्र की नीतियों में फिटनेस और खेल को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है, तब परिणाम विश्व स्तर पर दिखाई देते हैं।

स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में आयुष्मान भारत योजना
आयुष्मान भारत योजना ने गरीब और निम्नवर्गीय परिवारों के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण उपचार का रास्ता खोला। इससे करोड़ों परिवार आर्थिक संकट में जाने से बच सके।

मिलेट्स (श्री-अन्न) अभियान : संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा 2023 को "अंतरराष्ट्रीय मिलेट वर्ष" घोषित किए जाने के बाद भारत में बाजरा, रागी, ज्वार और कोदो जैसे पारंपरिक अनाजों को पुनः आहार संस्कृति में स्थान मिला।

पोषण अभियान : सही पोषण – देश रोशन के नारे के साथ यह अभियान बच्चों, गर्भवती महिलाओं और माताओं के लिए पोषण, स्वच्छता, स्वास्थ्य और संतुलित आहार को बढ़ावा देता है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय योग दिवस (21 जून) : संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 2014 में भारत के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करते हुए 21 जून को अंतरराष्ट्रीय योग दिवस घोषित किया। आज 190 से अधिक देशों में योग को अपनाया जा चुका है। यह भारत की सांस्कृतिक शक्ति का वैश्विक प्रभाव दर्शाता है।

फिट इंडिया – हिट इंडिया की राह में प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ
भारत का वर्तमान स्वास्थ्य परिदृश्य हमें यह सोचने पर मजबूर करता है कि बदलती जीवनशैली, बढ़ती तकनीकी निर्भरता और बिगड़ती खान-पान आदतों ने स्वास्थ्य को एक गंभीर राष्ट्रीय मुद्दा बना दिया है।

निष्क्रिय जीवनशैली के कारण मोटापा, स्क्रीन टाइम और घंटों बैठने की आदत युवाओं में मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप, हृदय रोग और मोटापे को बढ़ा रही है। WHO के अनुसार, शारीरिक निष्क्रियता मृत्यु के प्रमुख कारणों में शामिल है।

अस्वस्थ भोजन संस्कृति – जंक फूड और शुगर ड्रिंक्स – मोटापे और जीवनशैली रोगों को बढ़ावा दे रही है।मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संकट – तनाव, अवसाद और सोशल मीडिया का दबाव युवाओं के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर गहरा प्रभाव डाल रहा है। WHO रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हर चार में से एक युवा मानसिक समस्याओं से जूझ रहा है।

समाधान एवं भारत के नए फिटनेस मॉडल :

"फिट पंचायत मॉडल" – ग्रामीण फिटनेस को सुधारने के लिए ओपन जिम, मिनी स्पोर्ट्स लीग, सामुदायिक व्यायाम और खेल आधारित गतिविधियाँ चलाई जा सकती हैं। यह मॉडल गांवों को सामाजिक सहभागिता से जोड़ता है।

AI-आधारित राष्ट्रीय हेल्थ स्मार्ट डाटा – नागरिकों के BMI, डाइट, स्टेप्स और रोग जोखिम का विश्लेषण कर व्यक्तिगत सलाह दी जा सकती है। यह 2047 की स्वास्थ्य क्रांति का आधार बनेगा।

वन स्टूडेंट – वन स्पोर्ट नीति अपनाई जा सकती है, जहाँ हर छात्र किसी न किसी खेल में अनिवार्य रूप से भाग ले। मानसिक शक्ति केंद्र स्थापित किए जा सकते हैं, जहाँ योग, ध्यान और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य परामर्श उपलब्ध हो। मिलेट आधारित डाइट को स्कूल और कॉलेज कैंटीन में शामिल किया जा सकता है, जिससे युवा पीढ़ी स्वस्थ भोजन अपनाए।

"नवोन्मेषी सोच और फिट शरीर – इन्हीं से युवा राष्ट्र निर्मित होते हैं।"
भारत का स्वास्थ्य केवल आज की चुनौती नहीं, बल्कि हजारों वर्षों से चली आ रही विरासत है। योग, आयुर्वेद, संतुलित आहार, अनुशासन और सामंजस्य की वह परंपरा जिसने भारत को विश्व में "कल्याण की भूमि" बनाया।
आज बदलती जीवनशैली, पोषण की कमी और मानसिक तनाव जैसी चुनौतियाँ हमें यह याद दिलाती हैं कि फिटनेस अब विकल्प नहीं, बल्कि राष्ट्रीय आवश्यकता है। फिट भारत का अर्थ केवल शरीर का फिट रहना नहीं, बल्कि एक ऐसी पीढ़ी का निर्माण करना है जो शारीरिक, मानसिक, सामाजिक और नैतिक रूप से सशक्त हो।

जब हर आयु वर्ग – बच्चों से लेकर युवाओं और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों तक – फिटनेस को जीवनशैली में बदल लेगा, तब "फिट इंडिया, हिट इंडिया" केवल नारा नहीं रहेगा, बल्कि भारत की वास्तविक ताकत बन जाएगा।

2047 का सपना तभी साकार होगा, जब हर भारतीय अपने स्वास्थ्य को राष्ट्र-धर्म की तरह अपनाएगा।

ESSAY 02 | BRINDA DHANRAJ
TAMIL NADU

"Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world, but health gives the strength to use it." – Nelson Mandela

Mandela's words capture a fundamental truth: knowledge empowers, but only health enables. As India steps into an era of technological advancement and demographic strength, the real foundation of national progress lies in the well-being of its people. In a country where non-communicable diseases and mental-health challenges are rising alongside economic growth, building a "Fit Bharat" becomes essential for creating a truly "Hit Bharat."

India's Current Health Landscape

The Annual Health Report 2024-25 reveals that non-communicable diseases are now the leading causes of death in India. Ischaemic heart disease contributes 14.1% of all deaths, followed by stroke at 8.3%. Chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes add nearly 10%, signalling a shift from infectious to lifestyle-related diseases. The NFHS-5 highlights that over half of India's women and children are anaemic, even as obesity rises among adults, creating a dual burden of malnutrition and lifestyle disorders.

Evidence of India's Rising Health Consciousness

A Deloitte HFA report shows India's fitness market will almost double from ₹16,200 crore (2024) to ₹37,700 crore (2030) at a 15% CAGR. Fitness facility memberships are projected to rise from 12.3 million to 23.2 million, while over 820 million Indians aged 18-62 remain inactive, highlighting both a challenge and an opportunity.

Digital health trends further highlight changing habits. According to IDC's 2025 Wearable Device Tracker, India shipped 51.6 million wearables in the first half of 2025, though shipments declined 6.3% YoY due to saturation in low-cost devices. Interestingly, average selling prices increased, showing a shift toward high-quality health-focused wearables with features like heart rate, stress, and sleep monitoring. This growing digital-health base strengthens India's preventive-health potential.

Lifestyle trends also reveal a nationwide health movement:

- 35 million Indians actively practice yoga.
- More than 1.5 million people participate in marathons annually.
- Healthy food purchases (millets, cold-pressed oils, sugar-free products) have grown 18–27%.
- Protein supplements are witnessing double-digit growth.
- Food brands have reduced sugar content by 10-12% due to consumer demand.

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India has also become the second-largest market for fitness apps, with rising mental health

app usage. Digital fitness platforms like Cult.fit, HealthifyMe and Ultrahuman serve tens of millions, while over 100 Indian startups are developing AI based diagnostics for conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

Mental Health: The Invisible Dimension of Fitness

Mental health is central to the Fit Bharat vision. According to NIMHANS, 10.6% of Indian adults have mental disorders, while 15% require active intervention, yet the treatment gap remains large due to shortages of psychiatrists and counsellors. Academic pressure, workplace stress, digital overload and social isolation are intensifying mental health concerns among both youth and adults. India has strengthened primary care through 1.64 lakh Health & Wellness Centres providing screenings for hypertension, diabetes, common cancers, nutritional counselling and yoga. To build a mentally resilient population, India must strengthen school counsellor systems, community mental-health outreach, tele-mental health, and widespread awareness campaigns.

Global Models We Can Adapt

- Blue Zone Wellness Model

  Countries with the highest life expectancy emphasize active living, plant-rich diets, strong community bonds and stress reduction. India can promote district wise morning walking groups, rooftop yoga, millet-based diets and low stress community spaces. Gamifying these habits, rewarding steps, sleep scores and healthy meals can increase participation.

- Finland's School Health System

  Schools can introduce daily 10-minute fitness modules, mandatory counsellors, nutrition standards and creative wellness activities like micro yoga breaks, one minute dance bursts, emotion boxes and health report cards tracking steps, mood and sleep.

- Family Doctor Concept

  Assigning each household a Primary Care Physician through ABHA ensures continuity of care, early detection of hypertension and diabetes, and fewer unnecessary hospital visits

- Elderly Home-Care Model

  Regular home visits by ASHA workers or nurse practitioners for elders and chronic patients can reduce hospital load and improve quality of care, essential for India's ageing population.

AI & Technology Driven Innovations for Fit Bharat

Smart Health Kiosks for Villages Solar powered kiosks in gram panchayats can offer instant screening for BP, blood sugar, oxygen levels, BMI and anaemia, with AI triage referring serious cases to telemedicine doctors.

AI Driven National Health Data Platform

Using ABHA digital health records, AI can predict outbreaks, map district level disease trends, forecast medicine demand and send personalised reminders for screenings and vaccinations. The platform can categorize and connect to healthcare systems based on urgency.

Drone Delivery of Medicines & Blood

India has already begun pioneering drone delivery of vaccines, blood and emergency medicines in remote and disaster-prone regions. Expanding these projects nationwide can significantly cut delivery time in remote and disaster-prone regions, saving lives during critical emergencies.

Subsidised Smart Health Bands

A government led "Fit Bharat Mission" can distribute affordable Indian made health bands to students, government workers and elderly citizens. With India already shipping over 51 million wearables in just first half by 2025, subsidising can accelerate adoption. Partnerships with Noise, boAt and Titan can boost large scale adoption.

Safe AI for Mental Health Support

Using a Human in the Loop model, AI tools can identify distress signals like suicidal thoughts or panic and instantly alert trained counsellors. AI should avoid diagnosis, medication advice and personal data storage to ensure safety.

Conclusion

At a time when lifestyle diseases are rising, the country is also witnessing an unprecedented wave of fitness awareness, digital health adoption and community driven wellness. By uniting global best practices, technology driven innovations, mental health support and a strong public health system, India can transform this momentum into a national strength. A Fit Bharat will not only reduce disease burden but also unlock productivity, creativity and economic power. When citizens are strong, the nation is unstoppable and that is how a Fit Bharat becomes a truly Hit Bharat.

ESSAY 03 | ASHWINI KISHORCHANDRA HALPATI

DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU

Fitness and health are not solely about sports and exercises; the idea also revolves around public health and productivity. Research and studies done by the Indian Council of Medical Research show that regular physical activity can reduce the risk and possibility of having type-2 diabetes by 30 to 50%, heart disease by 30% and certain cancers by 20 to 25% depending on the time and amount of activity done by the person. Prolonged workout means fewer sick days, lower health care costs, and higher productivity in our day-to-day life. The economic survey of India (2018-19) shows that improving health parameters could add nearly 1-2 percentage points to the annual GDP growth of India. When citizens enrol in different physical activities, they directly contribute to a hit Bharat that can sustain 8-9% growth rates over decades.

In this busy and bustling day and night, mental health has become a major issue, which was adversely ignored in the early 20s, but as research progresses and conclusions are formed, mental health has become an important part of the nation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, India faced a major crisis in mental health. Programs like Fit India Moment promoted yoga and pranayama for stress and anxiety management, because during lockdown, deaths by heart attack were increased drastically, due to different financial and physical issues. Fit India school certificate and Fit India youth clubs have reached over 2.5 lakh schools and millions of students, creating a generation that not only values physical but also mental resilience.

The body is indeed the primary instrument for the practice of righteousness. This Indian wisdom finds validation today. Exercise releases endorphins, reduces cortisol (a stress hormone), and improves cognitive function. Traditional Indian practices have been recognised by people all over the world. Yoga was officially given an international day by the United Nations on December 11, 2014, and June 21 was recognised as International Yoga Day. This proposal was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and it was adopted by the UN General Assembly. Ayurveda, martial arts like Kalari Payattu, Thang-Ta, and games like Mallakhamb are being revived under the 'Return to Roots' theme. This cultural recovery has not only improved fitness but also helped to restore the pride in India's heritage, another marker for 'Hit India' that confidently shows its power globally.

However, challenges remain. Rural development is still inadequate; only 20-25% of villages have a proper and functional sports infrastructure. Gender imbalance in sports persists, with female enrolments in Khelo India moments still less than males. Corporate India is still lagging in adopting mandatory fitness hours. Junk food advertisements are still relentless without

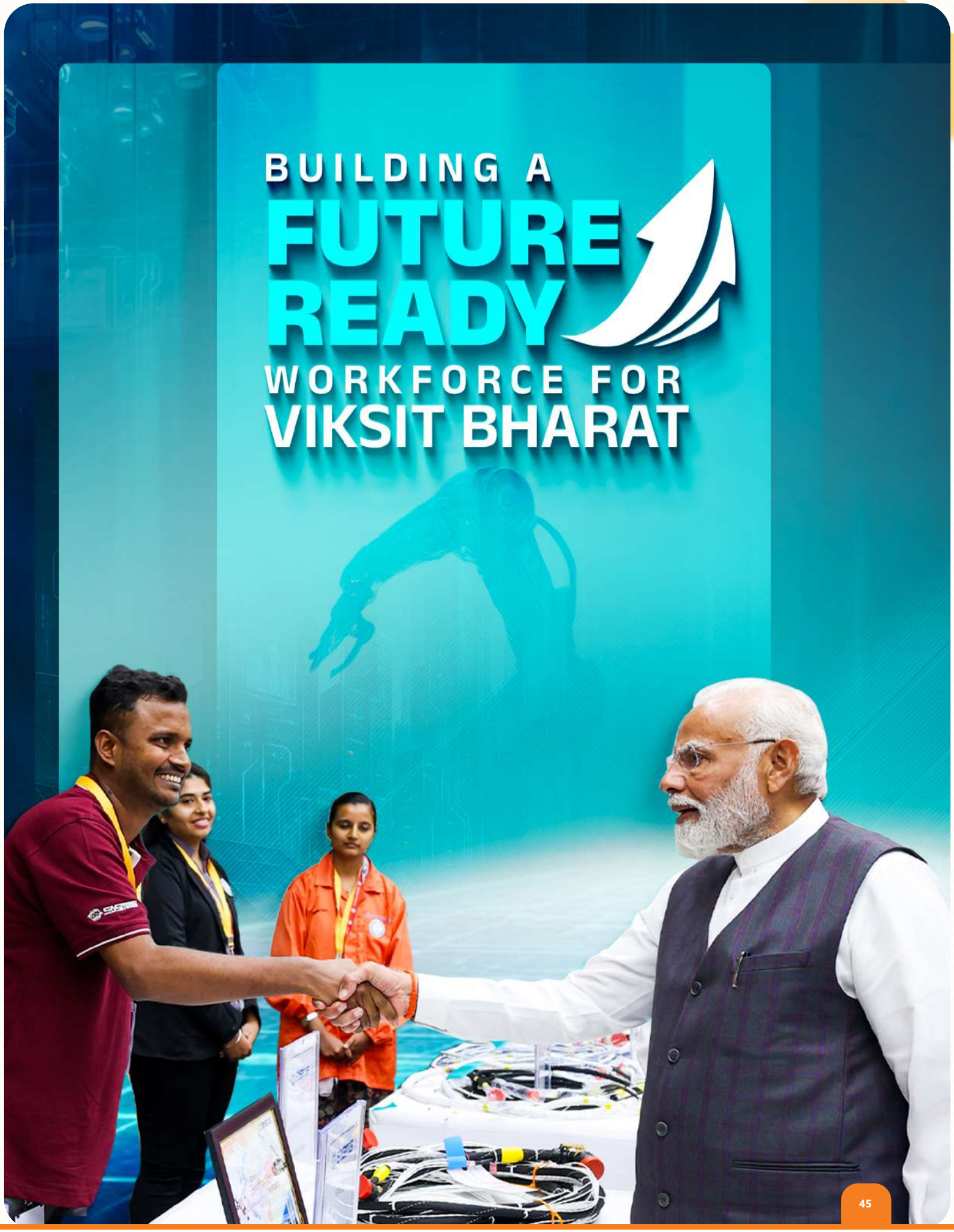
any review, and they continue to pursue children for their own financial benefit. Overcoming these requires stronger policy enforcement, public-private partnerships, and sustainable behavioural change in companies.

शरीरमाद्यं खलु धममसाधनम्। (Sharir mad ya m khalu dharma sa dh a nam)

The ultimate goal of Fit Bharat, Hit Bharat is to create a virtuous cycle: fitter citizens → healthy society → stronger economy → more confident nation → greater global influence. By 2047, when India completes its 100 years of independence, the vision is to see an India where life expectancy crosses 80 years, NCDs are under control, Indian athletes regularly top Olympic podiums, and every child grows believing that physical fitness is a fundamental tool in education.

In conclusion,

"Health is the real wealth, and not the pieces of gold and silver"


BUILDING A
FUTURE
READY
WORKFORCE FOR
VIKSIT BHARAT

ESSAY 01 | NASIHA WAHEED

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

A future-ready workforce forms the backbone of Viksit Bharat, an India envisioned to be technologically advanced, economically strong, socially inclusive, and globally influential. As the nation stands at the cusp of monumental transformation driven by rapid digitalization, demographic shifts, and global competition, preparing its human capital becomes a national priority.

To build a workforce capable of meeting future challenges, India must invest in robust education systems, dynamic skilling initiatives, technological integration, and values that nurture resilience and innovation. Transforming Education for New-Age Competencies The journey toward a future-ready workforce begins with reimagining the education system. Traditional rote-based learning, which focuses heavily on memorization, must evolve into a competency-centered model that promotes analytical thinking, creativity, and application of knowledge.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has already emphasized holistic learning, multidisciplinary approaches, and flexibility in choosing subjects. These changes aim to nurture learners who can adapt to diverse roles and evolving technologies. Strengthening STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education is crucial, but equally important is integrating digital literacy, coding, robotics, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and biotechnology. Early exposure to these fields will empower students to confidently participate in the digital economy. At the same time, arts, humanities, and social sciences must not be neglected, as they build emotional intelligence, communication, and cultural awareness, qualities essential for leadership and teamwork. Skilling, Upskilling, and Reskilling: The Lifelong Learning Model In a rapidly changing world, learning cannot remain confined to classrooms.

Industries are undergoing fast-paced transformations due to automation, AI-driven tools, and global competition. This demands a workforce that continuously upgrades its capabilities. India's young population, its demographic dividend, can be a tremendous asset if equipped with relevant skills. Government initiatives like Skill India, PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, and the Digital Skilling Mission aim to provide accessible training to millions. However, the focus must shift from quantity to quality.

Training programs need to align with industry requirements, and certifications should reflect practical competencies. The involvement of the private sector is vital; partnerships

between industries, academia, and the government can ensure that training programs are updated and market-oriented. Apprenticeships, internships, and on-the-job training should become integral parts of skill development. These not only provide hands-on experience but also help individuals understand workplace expectations, fostering confidence and discipline. For workers already in the labor force, continuous upskilling and reskilling will allow them to remain relevant despite technological disruptions.

Embracing Technology for National Growth Technology is reshaping the future of work across sectors, manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, finance, education, and services. To build a future-ready workforce, India must harness digital tools and ensure widespread technological access. Digital platforms can democratize learning by offering flexible, affordable courses, especially in rural and remote areas. Moreover, the adoption of technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), and advanced manufacturing can generate new opportunities. Preparing the workforce to operate, manage, and innovate with these technologies is essential for India to remain competitive.

Investments in research and development, innovation labs, and university–industry collaborations can strengthen technological capabilities and drive economic progress. Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Innovation A developed India will require not just job seekers but job creators. Entrepreneurship fosters innovation, develops leadership, and drives economic growth. India's start-up ecoAsystem, already one of the largest in the world, can play a crucial role in building a future-ready workforce. To promote entrepreneurship, the government and private institutions should continue offering incubation centers, funding support, mentorship, and innovation hubs. Programs like Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission have laid strong foundations, but more efforts are needed to ensure that youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds can participate. Encouraging rural entrepreneurship, women-led businesses, and social innovation can ensure inclusive growth. Ensuring Inclusivity and Equity in Workforce Development For Viksit Bharat, progress must reach every section of society.

A future-ready workforce cannot be built without ensuring opportunities for women, rural populations, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Closing gender gaps in workforce participation is especially vital. Providing safe working environments, flexible work arrangements, access to childcare, and digital literacy can help more women join the workforce. Rural skilling programs, digital access, and local employment initiatives can empower people in villages and small towns. Similarly, including persons with disabilities

through accessible training centers and supportive workplace policies helps create an inclusive workforce that reflects India's diversity. Building Soft Skills, Values, and National Ethos Technical knowledge alone does not make a workforce future-ready. Individuals must also possess soft skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, adaptability, and emotional intelligence. In a globalized world, cultural sensitivity and ethical integrity are equally important. Schools, colleges, and workplaces should emphasize character building, discipline, leadership training, and value-based education. These qualities responsible citizens who contribute positively to society and national development. Conclusion Building a future-ready workforce for Viksit Bharat is not just an economic requirement, it is a national mission.

It demands collaborative efforts from government, industry, educational institutions, and society. By transforming education, promoting lifelong learning, embracing technology, fostering entrepreneurship, and ensuring inclusivity, India can empower its citizens to become capable contributors to a modern, developed nation. With the right policies, skills, and values, the dream of Viksit Bharat is not far from reality

ESSAY 02 | V. P. SRI RAJYALAKSHMI KEERTHI
ANDHRA PRADESH

India today stands at a defining moment in history. As the nation envisions itself as a Viksit Bharat by 2047, a fully developed and self-reliant India, one thing is clear: the foundation of this dream lies in its people. The youth of Bharat, energetic and innovative, are the driving force of transformation. To realize this vision, we must focus on building a future-ready workforce, one that is skilled, adaptable, ethical, and globally competent.

- The Changing Nature of Work The world of work is undergoing a massive transformation. The rise of artificial intelligence, automation, green technologies, and digital platforms is reshaping industries. Traditional jobs are evolving, and new roles are emerging that demand interdisciplinary knowledge and advanced problem-solving skills. By 2030, nearly half of India's existing workforce will require reskilling to remain employable. In this context, preparing for the future is not optional, it is essential.
- Education as the Cornerstone A future-ready workforce begins in the classroom. India's education system must evolve from rote memorization to conceptual understanding and creativity. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides a roadmap for this transformation, emphasizing flexibility, vocational training, and multidisciplinary learning. Beyond degrees, the focus must shift toward skills, curiosity, and character. Students should be encouraged to think critically, collaborate, and apply knowledge to real-world challenges. Initiatives like Atal Tinkering Labs, SWAYAM, and Skill India Mission are steps in this direction, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application.
- The Role of Technology and Digital Skills Digital literacy is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. A future-ready Bharat needs citizens fluent in the language of technology, data analytics, coding, cybersecurity, and AI ethics. Government initiatives such as Digital India and IndiaAI Mission are empowering millions with access to tools and training. However, the goal should not only be to produce more engineers or coders but to create digital citizens, individuals who can harness technology responsibly for social good. From farmers using drones for precision agriculture to healthcare workers using telemedicine, technology must become a bridge to inclusion, not a barrier.
- Industry-Academia Collaboration For India's workforce to remain relevant, education must stay aligned with industry needs. Strong partnerships between academia and industry can ensure students learn skills that employers seek. Internship programs, innovation challenges, and research collaborations can give young minds real-world exposure. Start-up incubators and innovation hubs, supported by Startup India and Make in India, are creating opportunities for youth to become job creators rather than job seekers. This entrepreneurial mindset is key to driving growth in a rapidly changing economy.

- Inclusivity and Equal Opportunity A Viksit Bharat cannot be built without inclusion. Women, differently abled individuals, and rural youth must be active participants in the nation's growth story. Initiatives like Skill India for Women, Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, and Rural BPOs are helping bridge this gap. Empowering women to join and lead the workforce is not just a matter of equality, it is an economic imperative. Studies show that increasing women's participation in India's labor force could add trillions to the GDP by 2047. An inclusive workforce is a stronger workforce.
- Building Values Alongside Skills A future-ready individual is not defined only by technical ability but also by character and compassion. Ethical leadership, environmental consciousness, and teamwork are as vital as digital skills. Education must therefore nurture empathy, resilience, and a sense of national responsibility. As the world becomes more automated, it is our human values, empathy, creativity, and collaboration that will set us apart. India's cultural heritage, rooted in unity and wisdom, can guide us in combining progress with purpose.
- The Road Ahead To build a workforce for Viksit Bharat, a multi-dimensional strategy is needed:
    - Education Reform – Strengthen foundational and higher education with skill integration.
    - Continuous Learning – Encourage lifelong reskilling through digital platforms.
    - Public-Private Partnerships – Foster collaboration for research and innovation.
    - Rural Inclusion – Extend access to training and opportunities in every district.
    - Global Competence – Prepare youth for global challenges while preserving Indian values.
- **Conclusion :** The dream of Viksit Bharat is not a distant vision — it is a mission that begins today. Every young Indian equipped with knowledge, skill, and integrity becomes a builder of this new nation. By investing in education, embracing technology, and fostering inclusivity, India can create a workforce that not only meets the demands of the future but also shapes it.

ESSAY 03 | ANAKHA S
KERALA

ഇന്ത്യ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തിന്റെ നൂറാം വാർഷികമായ 2047-ൽ ഒരു വികസിത ഭാരതം (Viksit Bharat) ആയി മാറണമെന്ന് ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്നു. അതിനായി ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ ഘടകം ഭാവി സജ്ജമായ തൊഴിൽ സേന (Future-ready workforce) വികസിപ്പിക്കലാണ്. അതായത്, വേഗത്തിൽ മാറുന്ന സാങ്കേതിക, സാമൂഹിക, സാമ്പത്തിക സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾ നേരിടാൻ ആവശ്യമായ അറിവും കഴിവും മനോഭാവവും ഉള്ള യുവതലമുറയെ വളർത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുവരിക.

ഭാരതം ലോകത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും യുവജനസംഖ്യയുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളിലൊന്നാണ്. ഈ യുവജനശക്തിയെ പ്രായോഗികമായി ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതാണ് നമ്മുടെ ഏറ്റവും വലിയ സമ്പത്ത്. എന്നാൽ അതിനായി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, നൈപുണ്യവികസനം, നവോത്ഥാനശേഷി എന്നിവ തമ്മിൽ ചേർന്നുള്ള സമഗ്രമായ സമീപനം അനിവാര്യമാണ്.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ നവീകരണം

പഴയകാല rote learning രീതിയിൽ നിന്ന് മാറി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് ചിന്തിക്കാൻ, പ്രശ്നപരിഹാരത്തിനും നവോത്ഥാനത്തിനും പ്രേരണ നൽകുന്ന രീതിയിലേക്ക് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം മാറണം. ദേശീയ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ നയം 2020 (NEP 2020) ഈ ദിശയിൽ വലിയൊരു ചുവടുവയ്പാണ്. അതിലൂടെ സ്കൂൾ മുതൽ കോളേജ് വരെയുള്ള വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പ്രായോഗികത, സൃഷ്ടിപരത, ഡിജിറ്റൽ അറിവ് എന്നിവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രധാന്യം നൽകുന്നത്.

പാഠ്യപദ്ധതികളിൽ Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Data Science, Renewable Energy തുടങ്ങിയ ഭാവിയിലെ തൊഴിൽ മേഖലകളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിഷയങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിലൂടെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് ആഗോള മത്സരശേഷിയുള്ളവരായി വളരാം.

നൈപുണ്യ വികസനം

തൊഴിൽ വിപണിയുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ അനുസരിച്ച് യുവാക്കൾക്ക് പരിശീലനം നൽകുന്നത് Skill India Mission, Digital India, Start-up India പോലുള്ള പദ്ധതികളിലൂടെ നടപ്പാക്കുകയാണ്. പുതിയ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഒരു തൊഴിൽ ജീവിതം മുഴുവൻ ഒരേ ജോലി തുടരുക അസാധ്യമാണ്; അതിനാൽ reskilling (പുനർപരിശീലനം) , upskilling (കഴിവ് വികസനം) എന്നിവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രാധാന്യം.

സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യകളിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, soft skills, സംവരണശേഷി, നേതൃത്വഗുണം, സംഘനേതൃത്വം തുടങ്ങിയവയും ഒരു ഭാവിസജ്ജ തൊഴിലാളിയുടെ ഭാഗമാകണം.

ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന വളർച്ച

വികസിത ഭാരതത്തിനായി സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന തൊഴിലാളി സമൂഹം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്നവയും സമത്വപരവുമായിരിക്കുക വേണം. സ്ത്രീകളുടെ പങ്കാളിത്തം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാനും ഗ്രാമീണ യുവാക്കളെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ സംവിധാനങ്ങളിലൂടെ പ്രാപ്തരാക്കാനും പ്രത്യേക ശ്രമങ്ങൾ വേണം.

Self-Help Groups, Women Entrepreneurship Programs തുടങ്ങിയ പദ്ധതികൾ സ്ത്രീകളെ സ്വയംതൊഴിലിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്നു.

തൊഴിൽ പരിശീലനം നഗരങ്ങളിലൊതുങ്ങാതെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലേക്കും ചെറു

പട്ടണങ്ങളിലേക്കും വ്യാപിപ്പിക്കണ്ടേത് അനിവാര്യമാണ്.

നവോത്ഥാനവും ഗവഷേണവും

ഒരു വികസിത രാഷ്ട്രത്തിന്റെ അടിത്തറ നവോത്ഥാനശഷേിയിലാണ്. Atal Innovation Mission, Make in India തുടങ്ങിയ പദ്ധതികൾ യുവാക്കൾക്ക് സൃഷ്ടിപരമായ ആശയങ്ങൾ വികസിപ്പിക്കാനും ഗവഷേണത്തിലൂടെ പുതിയ ഉൽപ്പന്നങ്ങളും സവേനങ്ങളും രൂപപ്പടെുത്താനും അവസരം ഒരുക്കുന്നു.

സാങ്കതേിക വിദ്യയും സംരംഭകത്വവും കൂട്ടിച്ചർേന്നാൽ മാത്രമേ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഉൽപ്പാദന ശഷേി വർധിക്കുകയുള്ളു.

മൂല്യങ്ങളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തവും

ഭാവിയിലെ തൊഴിൽ സനേയുടെ ശക്തി അറിവിൽ മാത്രമല്ല, മൂല്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉം നതൈികതയിലുമാണ്. പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണം, സുസ്ഥിര വികസനം, സാമൂഹിക ഉത്തരവാദിത്തം എന്നിവ ഓരോ തൊഴിലാളിയും മനസ്സിലാക്കണം.

സാങ്കതേിക വിദ്യയുടെ തറെ്റായ ഉപയോഗം ഒഴിവാക്കി മനുഷ്യകനേ്ദ്രിതമായ പുരോഗതിക്കായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതും അത്രമലേ് പ്രധാനമാണ്.

സഹകരണം – സർക്കാർ, വ്യവസായം, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ, വ്യവസായ മഖേല, സർക്കാർ – ഇവ മൂന്നും ചർേന്നാൽ മാത്രമേ തൊഴിൽ വിപണിയുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കും പരിശീലനത്തിനും ഇടയിൽ പൊരുത്തം ഉണ്ടാകൂ. ക്യാമ്പസുകളിലും ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂഷനുകളിലും

Industry-Academia Partnerships വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് നരേിട്ടുള്ള തൊഴിൽപരിചയം ലഭിക്കും.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരതയും സാങ്കതേിക പരിജ്ഞാനവും

നമ്മുടെ ലോകം ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാങ്കതേിക വിദ്യയുടെ വഗേത്തിൽ മുന്നറേുമ്പോൾ, ഓരോ പൗരനും ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരത നടേണം. ഓൺലൈൻ ജോലികൾ, ഡാറ്റാ മാനജേ്മന്റ്, സൈബർ സുരക്ഷ തുടങ്ങിയ മഖേലകളിൽ അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ അറിവ് എല്ലാവർക്കും ആവശ്യമാണ്.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം ഓരോ വ്യക്തിയെയും സാങ്കതേികമായി ശക്തമാക്കുക എന്നതാണ്.

സർക്കാർ–വ്യവസായ–വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ സഹകരണം

തൊഴിൽസനേയെ ഭാവിയ്ക്ക് അനുയോജ്യമാക്കാൻ സർക്കാർ, വ്യവസായ മഖേല, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ എന്നിവ തമ്മിൽ ശക്തമായ സഹകരണം വണേം.

Industry-Academia Partnerships, Internship Programs, Campus Placement Drives തുടങ്ങിയവ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് യഥാർത്ഥ തൊഴിൽപരിചയം നൽകുന്നു.

ഇതിലൂടെ തൊഴിൽ വിപണിയിലേക്കുള്ള അവരുടെ പ്രവശേനം കൂടുതൽ സുഗമമാകും.

മൂല്യബോധം, പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണം, ഉത്തരവാദിത്തം

ഭാവി സജ്ജമായ തൊഴിലാളി സമൂഹം വരും അറിവുള്ളവരായിരിക്കരുത്; അവർ നൈതികതയുള്ള, മൂല്യബോധമുള്ള, ഉത്തരവാദിത്തമുള്ള പൗരന്മാരായിരിക്കണം.

Green Skills, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Environmental Awareness തുടങ്ങിയ മേഖലകളിൽ പരിശീലനം നൽകുന്നത് ഭാവിയിലെ പരിസ്ഥിതി സൗഹൃദ വികസനത്തിനായി നിർണായകമാണ്.

ഗ്രാമീണ തൊഴിൽസേനയുടെ വികസനം

ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ വളർച്ച നഗരങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രം ഒതുങ്ങാതെ ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലേക്കും വ്യാപിക്കണം. ഗ്രാമീണ യുവാക്കൾക്ക് ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യയിലേക്കുള്ള പ്രവേശനം ലഭിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് കണക്റ്റിവിറ്റി, ഡിജിറ്റൽ പരിശീലനം, ഇ-ഗവണ്മെൻസ് എന്നിവ ഉറപ്പാക്കണം.

ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ കാർഷിക മേഖലയിലും കച്ചവടങ്ങളിലും Agri-Tech, Rural BPOs, Handicraft Entrepreneurship തുടങ്ങിയ വഴികളിലൂടെ തൊഴിൽ അവസരങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കാം.

സംരംഭകത്വവും നവോത്ഥാനവും

വികസിത ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ അടിത്തറ സംരംഭകത്വത്തിലാണ്. Start-up India , Make in India പോലുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ യുവാക്കൾക്ക് സ്വന്തം ആശയങ്ങളെ വ്യവസായങ്ങളാക്കാൻ പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകുന്നു.

സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയും സൃഷ്ടിപരമായ ചിന്തയും ചേർന്നാൽ ഭാരതം ആഗോളതലത്തിൽ നവോത്ഥാന കേന്ദ്രമാകും.

പുതിയ സംരംഭങ്ങൾ തൊഴിൽ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിലൂടെ സമൂഹത്തിനും രാജ്യത്തിനും ഗുണം ലഭിക്കും.

സമാപനം

വികസിത ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ സ്വപ്നം യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാക്കുക എന്നത് ഒരു സർക്കാർ ലക്ഷ്യമായി മാത്രം കാണാൻ പാടില്ല; അത് ഓരോ പൗരന്റെയും കടമയാണ്. ഭാവി സജ്ജമായ തൊഴിൽസേനയെന്നത് തൊഴിൽ ലഭിക്കാൻ മാത്രം സജ്ജരാകുന്നതല്ല, മറിച്ച് മാറുന്ന ലോകത്തെ നയിക്കാനുള്ള ദർശനവും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തവുമുള്ള പൗരന്മാരായി വളരുക എന്നതുമാണ്.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, നൈപുണ്യവികസനം, സംരംഭകത്വം, നവോത്ഥാനം, മൂല്യബോധം എന്നിവ ഒരുമിച്ചുചേർന്നാൽ ഇന്ത്യ ലോകത്തിന് മാതൃകയായ ഒരു വികസിത ഭാരതം 2047 ആയി തീരും.

ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ശക്തി അതിന്റെ സ്വാഭാവിക സമ്പത്തിൽ അല്ല, അതിന്റെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ മനസിലും കഴിവിലുമാണ്.

അവരെയാണ് നമുക്ക് ഭാവിയ്ക്ക് സജ്ജമാക്കേണ്ടത്; അവരാണ് വികസിത ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ അടിത്തറ.

WOMEN LED DEVELOPMENT
THE KEY TO
VIKSIT BHARAT



ESSAY 01 | VEERA PUNDIR
DELHI

"The hands that handle the household can build the future of Viksit Bharat too" From Gargi and Maitreyi in Vedic era to Nirmala Sitharaman and Sushma Swaraj in the 21st century women played an essential position in the development of Bharat. Starting from Diplomacy to Philosophy, Nari Shakti has left an indelible mark in every arena they step into whether its mathematics and astronomy or literature and human welfare.

Our honorable Prime Minister believes that Bharat can achieve its full potential only when women lead and have equal opportunity, dignity, and agency in every area of society for which our government has already spearheaded the efforts.

Statistics from recent surveys conducted by various agencies show women-led startups in India have seen significant growth, with women constituting about 14% of all entrepreneurs, around 8 million individuals, by 2025. Women now lead approximately 22% of MSMEs, collectively employing up to 27 million people, and own 39.2% of bank accounts and nearly 40% of deposits in India. A clear step showing the financial strength our Nari Shakti exhibits from Falguni Nayar (Nykaa) or Richa Kar (Zivame) every woman has contributed to the dream of Viksit bharat. Not only financially but diplomatically also; Women constitute roughly 25-30% of India's diplomatic service, with increasing numbers in senior and ambassadorial roles over recent years. This journey started when C.B. Muthamma became the first woman to join the Indian Foreign Services in 1949, serving as a catalyst for women to shine brightly on the global stage. Few of the Notable names include Hansa Mehta, who played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Arundhati Ghose who presented India's stand during the 1996 negotiations for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and many others who have held significant diplomatic postings shaping India's geopolitical relations through discussions and deliberations.

Women have also been instrumental in conceptualizing, designing, and executing key space projects such as Mars Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan missions, and the upcoming Gaganyaan manned mission. Their leadership has inspired many young women to pursue STEM careers in India .ISRO had remarkable examples of women excelling in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths). Therefore, they make up approximately 20% of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) workforce, according to ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan in May 2025. Famous trailblazers are namely the "Rocket Woman of India," the one who was also Deputy Operations Director for the Mars Orbiter Mission and a key figure in Chandrayaan-2; Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava and the Missile Women of India Tessy Thomas, an Indian aerospace engineer and former Director General of Aeronautical Systems and the former Project Director for Agni-IV ballistic missile in Defense Research and Development Organization.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT : THE KEY TO VISKIT BHARAT

Women are also in the arena of human welfare. They have played a pivotal role as social reformers, activists, and leaders driving grassroots change and addressing pressing social issues. They have empowered marginalized communities, advocated for gender equality, and improved health, education, and livelihoods. Noteworthy figures are Kiran Bedi, founder of Navjyoti India Foundation, Ila Bhatt, the founder of SEWA and many more. These women leaders have helped break social barriers, promoting dignity, self-reliance, and socioeconomic upliftment for rural and urban disadvantaged populations. Their contributions have influenced policy changes, inspired subsequent generations of women to enter social work, and continue to impact human welfare positively across India.

With other significant steps like, Nari Vandan Adhiniyam for improved women political representation, Udyogini Scheme and Mahila Udyam Nidhi Scheme from upliftment of women financially to all other initiatives like Beti Bacho Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), and many more; Government of India has left no stone unturned for betterment of the citizens who constitute around 48% of Indian population.

I strongly believe that following the path will be the attainment of the golden future of Viksit Bharat envisioned by our honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji till year 2047 with Women's contribution being a major foundation of the same. "Women are now seen not as passive recipients but as empowered agents of change, central to India's development story. This is the **new mantra women led development**"

ESSAY 02 | DENCY DUMKA
UTTARAKHAND

In every dream a spark we sow, Women rise, and nations grow. With fearless hearts and lifted eyes, We break the limits, touch the skies. Our voice is strength, our step is flame, We change the world, we shape the frame. Together bold, united, free, In us lives India's destiny. These lines reflect not just a poetic wish, but a truth I deeply believe in: women are not just contributors to India's growth, they are its very foundation.

In every dream a spark we sow, Women rise, and nations grow. With fearless hearts and lifted eyes, We break the limits, touch the skies. Our voice is strength, our step is flame, We change the world, we shape the frame. Together bold, united, free, In us lives India's destiny. These lines reflect not just a poetic wish, but a truth I deeply believe in: women are not just contributors to India's growth, they are its very foundation.

Growing up, I saw this closely in my own home. My mother runs her own art centre despite many social pressures. She stands on her identity, supported by my father, and her courage inspires me every single day. It taught me that the smallest unit of society , the family, is where leadership begins. In my neighbourhood too, I see women rewriting what is considered possible. One aunty drives an auto rickshaw to support her children. Another woman, a gram panchayat leader, confidently voices her opinions in village meetings and shapes decisions that affect hundreds. These are not "big leaders" by society's definition, yet their leadership is real. Their everyday courage shows me that women-led development does not always start in government offices; sometimes it begins in narrow lanes, on dusty roads, or in simple homes. Across India, the stories are even more inspiring.

The Indian women's cricket team recently brought home the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in 2025, a moment that made every Indian proud. They showed that when women get the right platform, they don't just compete, they lead. In sports, icons like Manu Bhaker, with her Olympic medals, prove that age is not a limit, determination is. Beyond sports, women are rising in fields that shape the nation's future. Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi becoming one of India's first women combat pilots broke a long standing barrier. Her flight symbolises a much larger journey, one where Indian daughters claim the sky with confidence. In science and technology, women scientists played a key role in Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3, contributing significantly to India's success in space exploration.

Leaders like Ritu Karidhal and Muthayya Vanitha have shown the world that Indian women are at the frontlines of innovation. Women are also transforming India's startup ecosystem. Entrepreneurs like Falguni Nayar (Nykaa), Ghazal Alagh (Mamaearth), and Suchita Salwan

(LBB) created companies that not only changed markets but created thousands of jobs. Their stories prove that when women lead businesses, the entire economy benefits. This connects directly to India's broader economic data.

Studies show that bridging the gender gap in employment could boost India's GDP by up to 30%. Female workforce participation has risen significantly, from 22% in 2017–18 to 40.3% in 2023–24. Women led MSME's have nearly doubled in the last decade, becoming engines of job creation. Under MUDRA Yojana, 68% of the loans have been taken by women, showing how strongly they are stepping into entrepreneurship. Research shows that women reinvest around 90% of their income into their families and communities (compared to 30–40% by men), creating a ripple effect of progtress. Financial independence is also growing. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, more than 460 million bank accounts were opened, and 56% of these belong to women. This has given millions of women their first chance to save, spend, and make financial decisions. In social development, women's leadership influences everything, health, education, sanitation, and community growth. When women lead, their decisions are often more inclusive and sustainable. Educated women ensure better health for their families and invest more in their children's schooling, breaking cycles of poverty.

In governance too, women are taking centre stage. With reservations in local bodies, over 1.4 million women now participate in Panchayati Raj institutions. Policies like the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which reserves 33% seats in Parliament and state assemblies for women, mark a historic shift, from women being passive recipients of welfare to active decision-makers shaping India's future. Maternal health has seen important progress. Paid maternity leave has been extended to 26 weeks, giving new mothers time to recover and bond. Under PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, crores of pregnant women have received health check-ups, reducing risks during childbirth. In housing, over 72% of PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) homes are owned solely or jointly by women, giving them legal and financial security.

When I think of all these examples, my mother running her centre, the auto-driving aunty, the panchayat leader, the women scientists of ISRO, the pilots, the athletes, the entrepreneurs, I realise they all reflect the same truth: women-led development creates stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger nation. In conclusion, women-led development is not just a policy vision, it is the heartbeat of a Viksit Bharat. Every woman, whether in a home or a boardroom, a farm or a laboratory, a cockpit or a classroom, carries within her the power to transform India. These women are sparks of hope, and together, their sparks will light India's path to the future.

ESSAY 03 | SANIYA ZUBERBHAI PATHAN
GUJARAT

प्रस्तावना:

"यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः।"

यह प्राचीन श्लोक भारत की उस गौरवशाली परंपरा को दर्शाता है जहाँ स्त्री को सृष्टि की जननी और समाज की प्रेरणा माना गया है। भारत सदियों से "नारी तू नारायणी" कहकर स्त्री-शक्ति का सम्मान करता आया है। लेकिन वास्तविक विकास तभी संभव है जब महिला केवल सम्मान की प्रतिमा न होकर निर्णय लेने वाली शक्ति भी बने।

प्राचीन काल से लेकर आज तक भारतीय संस्कृति ने महिलाओं को आदर, सम्मान और सशक्त भूमिका दी है। माँ सीता, रानी लक्ष्मीबाई, सरोजिनी नायडू, कल्पना चावला और सानिया मिर्ज़ा जैसी असंख्य भारतीय महिलाओं ने यह सिद्ध किया है कि जब नारी आगे बढ़ती है, तो समाज और राष्ट्र दोनों प्रगति करते हैं।

"अगर आप किसी राष्ट्र को आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, तो उसकी महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाइए।"

— Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

बदलते भारत की महिला घर की सीमाओं से निकलकर हर क्षेत्र में अपनी पहचान बना रही है। चाहे वह राजनीति हो, विज्ञान, शिक्षा, व्यापार, खेल या और तकनीक जैसे की

- राजनीति में — राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू, वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण और विदेश मंत्रालय में मीना सिंह जैसी महिलाएँ नेतृत्व कर रही हैं।
- विज्ञान में — चंद्रयान-3 मिशन की "रॉकेट वुमन ऑफ इंडिया" ऋतु करिधल, मौनिता दत्ता जैसी वैज्ञानिक महिलाओं ने भारत को अंतरिक्ष में नई ऊँचाइयाँ दीं।
- उद्यमिता में — नायका (Nykaa) की फाल्गुनी नायर, बायोकॉन (Biocon) की किरण मजूमदार शॉ, शुगर कॉस्मेटिक्स की विनीता सिंह और ज़ोमैटो (Zomato), फ्रीचार्ज (Freecharge) जैसी कंपनियों में महिला अधिकारी यह साबित कर रही हैं कि महिलाएँ केवल सहभागी नहीं, बल्कि परिवर्तन की वाहक हैं।
- ऑपरेशन सिंदूर — कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी और विंग कमांडर व्योमिका सिंह जैसी महिला अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति ने यह सिद्ध किया कि भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाएँ हर भूमिका में पुरुषों के साथ कंधे-से-कंधा मिलाकर चल रही हैं।
- विमेंस वर्ल्ड कप 2025 — प्रत्योगिता में भारत की महिला किरकेट टीम ने इतिहास रच दिया फाइनल मई दक्षिण अफ्रीका को 52 रन से हराकर उन्होंने पहली बार यह ख़िताब अपने नाम किया। यह जीत भारतीय महिला क्रिकेट के लिए नया अध्याय खोलती है।

महिला नेतृत्व" का मतलब सिर्फ महिलाओं का आगे आना नहीं, बल्कि यह उस दृष्टिकोण का प्रतीक है जिसमें संवेदनशीलता, सहानुभूति, सहयोग और संतुलन शामिल हैं।

महिलाओं के नेतृत्व में निर्णय केवल तर्क पर नहीं, बल्कि मानवता और करुणा पर भी आधारित होते हैं। यही दृष्टिकोण "विकसित भारत" के निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक है — जहाँ विकास केवल आर्थिक न होकर

सामाजिक और नैतिक रूप से भी संतुलित हो।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी कहते हैं, "मैं सबसे अमीर व्यक्ति हूं, क्योंकि मेरे पास करोड़ों माताओं, बहनों और बेटियों की दुआओं का खजाना है। यही मेरी सबसे बड़ी पूंजी और ताकत है।" वे मानते हैं, "महिलाएं सिर्फ गृहिणी नहीं, वे राष्ट्र निर्माता हैं।" और यही वजह है कि सरकार ने 'महिला विकास' से आगे बढ़कर 'महिला-प्रधान विकास' का दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है।

" एक नारी जब जागती है, तो परिवार जागता है,
परिवार जब जागता है, तो गांव जागता है,
गांव जब जागता है, तो राष्ट्र जाग उठता है। "

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना, जनधन योजना, प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना, बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ, मुद्रा योजना, सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स (SHGs) जैसी कई योजनाओं ने लाखों महिलाओं को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का काम किया है। आज महिलाओं का नाम घर, जमीन और संपत्ति पर दर्ज होना उनके आत्मसम्मान और सुरक्षा का प्रतीक बन गया है। आज देश में महिला वैज्ञानिक, इंजीनियर और उद्यमी नए आयाम स्थापित कर रही हैं, यहाँ तक कि चंद्रयान-3 मिशन में भी 50 से ज्यादा महिला वैज्ञानिकों ने नेतृत्व किया।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं की भूमिका अब प्रशासन और पंचायतों तक पहुँच चुकी है। भारत में महिला सरपंचों ने गाँवों में शिक्षा, स्वच्छता, जल संरक्षण और स्वास्थ्य सुधार जैसे क्षेत्रों में उल्लेखनीय कार्य किए हैं। एक उदाहरण है — राजस्थान की छवि राजावत, जिन्होंने अपने गाँव की सरपंच बनकर तकनीक और शिक्षा के माध्यम से गाँव

को एक मॉडल ग्राम बनाया।

ऐसी कहानियाँ यह दिखाती हैं कि महिला नेतृत्व जड़ों से लेकर शिखर तक भारत को बदल रहा है। आज जब महिलाएँ उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रही हैं, तो वे रोजगार, उद्यमिता और नवाचार के क्षेत्र में भी आगे बढ़ रही हैं। डिजिटल इंडिया, स्टार्टअप इंडिया और स्किल इंडिया जैसे अभियानों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी तेजी से बढ़ रही है। अब महिलाएँ केवल नौकरी नहीं ढूंढ रही, बल्कि रोजगार सृजक बन रही हैं।

महिला-नेतृत्व विकास की बात करते समय यह न भूलें कि यह केवल महिलाओं का संघर्ष नहीं है। पुरुषों को भी इस परिवर्तन यात्रा में सहयोगी बनना होगा। एक पिता का समर्थन, एक पति का साथ, एक भाई का प्रोत्साहन, किसी भी महिला के सफर को आसान बना सकता है। वास्तव में, स्त्री-पुरुष दो पहिए हैं राष्ट्र रूपी इस रथ के, दोनों का समान बल ही राष्ट्र को विकास की ओर गतिमान कर सकता है।

समापन :

कल्पना कीजिए एक ऐसे भारत की, जहाँ हर बेटी शिक्षित हो, हर महिला सशक्त हो, हर माँ आत्मनिर्भर हो। यह केवल आर्थिक विकास की बात नहीं, बल्कि एक संपूर्ण सामाजिक क्रांति की बात है। महिला के स्वास्थ्य, पोषण और सुरक्षा पर ध्यान देना राष्ट्र की प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए। सुरक्षित वातावरण में पलकर ही कोई बेटी आसमान छू सकती है। घर-परिवार से लेकर सार्वजनिक स्थलों तक, उसे सम्मान और सुरक्षा का अधिकार

मिलना ही चाहिए। यह कोई उपकार नहीं, बल्कि उसका जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है। विकसित भारत का सपना तभी साकार होगा जब —

जब हर बेटी बिना डर के अपने सपने देख सके,
जब हर माँ को यह गर्व हो कि उसकी बेटी भी देश का भविष्य लिख रही है,
तभी भारत वास्तव में विकसित कहलाएगा।

|| जय हिन्द ||

ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH SMART AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



ESSAY 01 | IAIKYRSHAN RYNTATHIANG
MEGHALAYA

Agriculture has always been the heartbeat of India. It feeds 1.4 billion people, employs almost half our workforce, and forms the cultural foundation of rural life. Yet, despite its centrality, the Indian farm sector is stuck between tradition and transition that are rich in potential, but constrained by inefficiency, climate stress, and uneven access to modern tools.

As India looks toward Viksit Bharat 2047, a vision of a fully developed, self-reliant, and globally competitive nation, smart and sustainable agriculture is not just one option; it is the core engine that can propel us there. Today, India stands at an interesting crossroads. On one hand, we are witnessing rising digital adoption in rural India like UPI transactions in villages, drones delivering fertilizers, solar pumps replacing diesel, and young farmers experimenting with hydroponics. On the other side, many farmers still struggle with unpredictable monsoons, degrading soil, stagnant yields, and limited access to high-value markets. This gap between possibility and reality defines where we are right now.

If we are to achieve a truly developed India by 2047, the transformation must begin from the soil upward. The question, then, is not only how to increase farm productivity, but how to do it smartly, sustainably, and inclusively so that prosperity reaches every farmer, every village, and every generation. Where We Stand : Challenges on the Road to 2047

- Climate Stress and Water Scarcity India is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Over 50% of our districts face drought risk, while others face floods. Agriculture remains dependent on monsoon rainfall even though groundwater tables continue to fall. This makes farming unpredictable, yields inconsistent, and incomes unstable.
- Small Landholdings and Low Mechanization Nearly 86% of Indian farmers own less than 2 hectares of land. For them, purchasing tractors, sensors, drones, or automated systems is often impossible. Mechanization remains uneven and expensive, limiting productivity.
- Soil Degradation and Declining Nutrient Quality Excessive chemical fertilizers have depleted soil health. According to field studies, organic carbon content in Indian soil has been declining—directly affecting crop quality and long-term sustainability.
- Fragmented Markets and Low Farmer Income Farmers receive only a small fraction of the final retail price. Middlemen, transportation costs, and lack of storage results in wastage and reduced income. This discourages new generation farmers and pushes youth away from agriculture.
- Limited Access to Technology and Knowledge Smart tools exist, but reaching remote regions especially in tribal and hill communities remains a challenge. Digital literacy, affordability, and connectivity gaps slow down the adoption of smart farming.

Solutions : A New Architecture for India's Agricultural Future If India wants to reach Viksit Bharat by 2047, the solutions cannot be ordinary. They must be innovative, inclusive, and futuristic, while still grounded in local realities.

- The "One Village, One Smart Farm Hub" Model Instead of expecting individual farmers to buy expensive devices, the government and private sector can establish shared Smart Farm Hubs in every village. These hubs will include:
  - Community-owned drones
  - Soil testing kiosks
  - Weather stations
  - AI advisory booths
  - Shared tractors and robotic weeders Farmers pay a small fee per use. This reduces cost, builds community ownership, and accelerates digital adoption.
- Water-Smart India : A National Irrigation Transformation To address water scarcity sustainably :
  - Promote large-scale micro-irrigation with subsidies reaching remote areas.
  - Expand solar-powered irrigation to cut energy costs.
  - Use AI-driven water forecasting to plan crop cycles.
  - Harvest rainwater in every village through redesigned ponds and watershed systems. This can save billions of litres annually and make farming climate-resilient.
- The Soil Rebirth Mission Healthy soil is the foundation of healthy productivity, India needs a national soil regeneration program that promotes:
  - Bio-fertilizers and organic carbon boosters
  - Green cover crops during off-season
  - Community composting units
  - Zero Budget Natural Farming corridors Restoring soil is not just sustainability, it is investment in long-term national food security.
- Village Food Processing Units: From Producer to Value Creator India wastes nearly 30% of its produce due to lack of processing. Establishing micro food processing units in villages can:
  - Reduce wastage
  - Create local jobs
  - Increase farmers' income by 2–3 times
  - Transform villages into rural enterprise hubs This shift—from "selling raw produce" to "selling value-added products", is crucial for achieving the economic targets of Viksit Bharat.

- Smart Farmer Education: India's New Agricultural Literacy To build the next generation of agripreneurs, India must introduce:
    - AI-powered multilingual farm advisory apps
    - Digital skill training in rural schools
    - Strengthened Krishi Vigyan Kendras
    - Youth-led "Farm Innovation Club" Knowledge is the true fertilizer of productivity.
- How This Leads to Viksit Bharat 2047 A developed India is not just about GDP numbers. It is about:
    - Food security
    - Self-reliance
    - Empowered farmers
    - Thriving rural economies
    - Climate resilience

Smart agriculture can generate millions of green jobs, improve rural incomes, reduce urban migration, protect natural resources, and make India a global agricultural powerhouse. When farmers prosper, the nation prospers. By 2047, if India integrates technology with tradition, sustainability with smartness, and innovation with inclusion, agriculture can become the strongest pillar of New India. Conclusion Enhancing productivity through smart and sustainable agriculture is not a distant dream, it is a national necessity. The path to Viksit Bharat 2047 runs through India's farms, fields, and villages.

By embracing technology, restoring our soil, empowering farmers, and reimagining rural economies, India can transform agriculture from a sector of struggle into a sector of strength. The farmer who once looked at the sky for rain will look at data for decisions. The youth who planned to leave farming will return as innovators. And the villages once seen as backward will emerge as the engines of India's growth. A developed India will not be built in boardrooms alone, it will be built in the hands of its farmers.

ESSAY 02 | VRITY ASERI
RAJASTHAN

Introduction

Linking Vision with Ground Realities India's dream of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 cannot be fulfilled without strengthening the sector that feeds the nation - Agriculture. Growing up between urban classrooms and rural conversations, I have witnessed both the struggles and the subtle innovations shaping our villages. It became evident to me that the future does not lie in only following traditional methods or only pushing aggressive mechanization. Instead, the future belongs to a balanced model: one where technology supports farmers without replacing their wisdom, and where knowledge becomes as accessible as seeds. During visits to my ancestral village, I saw farmers relying on guesswork-guessing the weather, soil conditions, and the right fertilizer; while young farmers experimented with drip irrigation, organic manure, and mobile farming apps. These contrasting realities strengthened my belief that India's productivity will rise only when technology meets tradition, built on solutions rooted in everyday practicality.

Problems Faced by Farmers

Gaps in Existing Measures India has made progress through schemes such as drip irrigation subsidies, the PM–Kisan digital portal, soil-health cards, MSP mechanisms, and rainwater harvesting initiatives. Yet, the biggest challenge remains uncertainty. Farmers still: – Guess the weather, because apps feel confusing or unreliable. – Guess the fertilizer, because soil reports arrive late. – Guess market prices, due to delayed or difficult-to-understand updates Along with this, high input costs, over-irrigation, stubble burning, and sudden pest attacks continue to reduce productivity. Many farmers also lack simple, on-ground guidance that fits their daily routine. These gaps show that while smart and sustainable methods exist, India still needs small, practical, community-friendly solutions that complement government initiatives and support farmers in real time.

Smart Agriculture Solutions

Smart agriculture droes not always require expensive machinery; many solutions begin with simple, organized steps: I. II. III. Digital Learning Corners: Most farmers own smartphones, yet they rarely use the beneficial tools inside them. Small learning corners near ration shops or milk centres, where a volunteer spends just ten minutes teaching farmers to check weather updates or pest warnings, can create immediate impact.

Sustainable Agriculture Sustainability works best when it blends naturally into village routines.

Portable Farm-Waste Chopper Days: Instead of burning crop residue, a shared portable waste chopper can move from field to field, turning stubble into cattle feed or compost or briquettes, reducing pollution and enriching soil. One-Skill Sundays: Weekly One-Skill Sunday

Sessions can teach farmers and families how to :

a. Dry vegetables
b. Prepare herbal powders
c. Make jaggery blocks
d. Create millet-based snacks

These simple skills offer extra income without requiring extra land.
Rotation-Based Irrigation: A community-made rotation-based irrigation schedule ensures equal access to water and prevents groundwater overuse, especially in canal-fed or borewell dependent villages. Through these everyday, low-cost habits, rural communities become more resilient, resource-efficient, and self-reliant.

Conclusion

Small Steps, Big Change A Viksit Bharat will grow from fields that are both productive and sustainable. Government initiatives like drip irrigation and digital portals have set a strong foundation, but true progress depends on community-driven, practical actions that fit everyday village life. Simple steps- shared drones, weather stations, waste-to-feed units, and digital learning corners- can reduce guesswork, improve decision making, and protect our natural resources. When farmers receive timely information and adopt eco-friendly habits, agriculture becomes stronger, stable, and future-ready. A developed India begins with empowered farmers, and these smart, sustainable steps can take us closer to the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

"जब ज्ञान की ककरणें उतर जाती हैं, तकनीक से परंपराएँ किर से कनखर जाती हैं। हर खेत में उगती है तरक्की की नई लकीर, किककसत भारत की सुबह िहीं से चमकती है।"

ESSAY 03 | SURESH D
TAMIL NADU

Introduction

The vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, a developed, self-reliant India, rests on the shoulders of the agricultural sector. For decades, Indian agriculture focused on a volume centric approach to ensure food security. However, as we march toward 2047, the challenge has evolved. We face a trilemma: enhancing productivity to feed a growing population, adapting to an unstable climate and restoring degraded ecosystems. The answer is not minor changes, but rather a major paradigm shift.

Enhancing productivity through Smart and Sustainable Agriculture is this new, non-negotiable path. It is a move from input-intensive farming to knowledge-intensive agriculture, where data, biology and genetic potential converge to create a resilient food system.

Pillar 1 : The Smart Revolution (Precision for Productivity) To enhance productivity, we must first eliminate inefficiency. Traditional agriculture often treats entire fields as uniform units, leading to the wasteful use of water, fertilizers and pesticides. Smart Agriculture (Precision Farming) disrupts this by treating every square metre as a unique production unit. The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Geospatial Tools (drones and satellite imaging) allows for real-time, data-driven decision making. For instance, Variable Rate Technology (VRT) in machinery, guided by GPS and soil maps, can adjust fertilizer application based on instantaneous soil health data. This ensures that nutrients are applied exactly where needed, maximizing Resource Use Efficiency. Similarly, the use of agricultural drones for spraying fertilizers and pesticides ensures uniform coverage in plant foliage. AI-powered imaging can identify pest attacks or nutrient deficiencies at an initial stage, enabling targeted interventions. By digitizing the farm, we reduce input costs and bridge yield gaps, directly boosting productivity.

Pillar 2 : The Sustainable Foundation (Resilience for Productivity) However, technology is only the vehicle; sustainability is the road. High productivity cannot be sustained on degrading soil or with depleted groundwater. The Green Revolution's legacy, while saving us from famine, also includes declining Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) and chemical-intensive path dependency. Therefore, the vision for 2047 requires a transition to Regenerative Agriculture. We must view soil not as a substrate but as a living ecosystem. Enhancing productivity sustainably involves prioritizing SOC. Practices like conservation tillage, cover cropping and the incorporation of crop residues are critical for sequestering carbon and improving soil's water retention capacity. Furthermore, the shift toward Bio-inputs, such as microbial consortia (e.g., Trichoderma), bio-stimulants and botanical pesticides, is essential. These inputs enhance the plant's physiological potential without the toxic residual effects. Crucially, sustainability also drives productivity through diversification. Moving away from high-risk monoculture,

Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), which combine crops, livestock, aquaculture, and agroforestry, create a circular economy on the farm. This model not only provides multiple revenue streams, insulating farmers from market shocks, but also enhances soil fertility and resource cycling. This is a time-tested strategy for building economic and ecological resilience simultaneously.

Pillar 3 : The Genetic Frontier (Innovation for Productivity) Management practices alone are insufficient; we must also enhance the intrinsic potential of our crops. This is the role of advanced genetic science. The future of productivity lies in Climate-Resilient crop varieties developed through marker-assisted breeding and genomics. We need cultivars that are not just high-yielding but also inherently drought-tolerant, heat-resistant and less-resource intensive. Genome-edited crops (like CRISPR-Cas9) offer a pathway to faster, more precise development of plants with enhanced nutritional profiles (biofortification) and robust resistance to pests, directly reducing reliance on chemical interventions. This genetic frontier is a non-negotiable component of a food-secure Viksit Bharat, providing the high-potential seeds that smart and sustainable practices can then optimize.

The Synergy: Unlocking Full Potential The true enhancement of productivity lies not in these pillars individually, but in their synergy. The full potential is unlocked when a farmer uses an AI-powered app (Smart) to decide the optimal planting time for a newly developed climate-resilient cultivar (Genetic) in a field managed with minimum tillage (Sustainable).

This convergence is where smart technology acts as an enabler for sustainable practices. For example:

- Water Efficiency: Automated micro-irrigation systems combined with soil moisture sensors (Smart) ensure that a drought-tolerant crop (Genetic) receives water only when the physiological demand exists, drastically reducing the water footprint.
- Traceability and Value: Blockchain technology (Smart) can certify sustainably grown produce (Sustainable), ensuring that farmers get a premium price. This economic incentive drives further adoption of sustainable methods, creating a good cycle of productivity and profitability. Bridging the Gap: Policy, People and Implementation

This vision is ambitious and requires robust implementation. India is already laying the groundwork. The Digital Agriculture Mission and the creation of an 'Agri Stack' (Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture) are pivotal steps. Initiatives like the Soil Health Card Scheme and the National Mission on Natural Farming promote ecological balance. Furthermore, the rise of over 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) provides the institutional structure for smallholders to access these technologies. However, this vision faces practical hurdles: the high initial cost of precision tools and a significant digital skill gap. This is where policy must be tactical. Capital subsidies and Custom Hiring Centres for drones and sensors are crucial for smallholder access.

More importantly, we must reinvent our agricultural extension services (KVKs) as digital-first hubs for training and learning. Empowering the farmer, not just the farm, is the central task. We must also address challenges of data privacy, ensuring that the farmer remains the owner of their data. Conclusion As we look toward 2047, the Indian farmer will no longer be just a cultivator of crops but a manager of data, a steward of the ecosystem and a deployer of advanced genetics. The productivity of the future will be measured not just in tonnes per hectare, but in nutrition per capita, income per farmer and carbon captured per farm.

By weaving these three powerful pillars - Precision, Sustainability and Genetic Innovation into a single, synergistic strategy, we will ensure that Indian agriculture remains the beating heart of a prosperous, resilient and truly Viksit Bharat. "Swasth Dharti, Samriddh Kisan, Viksit Bharat"

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN VIKSIT BHARAT



ESSAY 01 | PRITOM SAIKIA

PRITOM SAIKIA

An Indian nation can only be said to be a Viksit Bharat by doing more than by skyscrapers or economic prosperity. When growth is sustainable and accompanied by fresh air, healthy environment, and sustainable consumption, then real development is attained. With India on its way to achieving the dream of establishing it as a developed nation by 2047, the concept of sustainability should be at the core of this dream.

A green and sustainable Bharat translates to a nation capable of developing without having to deplete its natural resources, a nation with innovation as the economic power and the preservation of the planet. Sustainability: The Keynote of Real Development Sustainable development refers to the need to ensure that the needs of the present generation do not deny the future generation their right to their needs. It makes a compromise between economic growth, social equity and environmental protection. This has been best expressed through the ancient Indian philosophy Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam translating to the world as one family.

Industries, agriculture, cities and citizens would all be in unison with nature in a sustainable Viksit Bharat. Green growth would ensure that the future prosperity that we make today is not handed to our children tomorrow with a broken planet. Environment in India: Environmental Problems India has several environmental issues that should be addressed. According to the report published by World Air Quality (2023), there are a number of Indian cities in the list of the most polluted in the world. As stated by NITI Aayog, annually approximately 62 million tonnes of waste are produced in India out of which only 30 percent is healthily employed. There is increasing deforestation, water shortage and plastic pollution. The phenomena of climate change have increased heat waves and irregular monsoons which have influenced agriculture and livelihood. Uncontrolled these issues might hurt the very growth that we go on boasting about.

But these challenges can be turned into opportunities as well, to be innovative, recycle, and rethink how to construct our future. Taking Problems and Turning them into Opportunities

- Recycling and Circular : The sustainability mission of India must be based on recycling. There can be a circular economy in which waste is perceived as a resource and this will cause a significant reduction in the damages to the environment besides providing jobs
- Eco-friendly ManufacturingEconomy: The manufacturing industry in India is an important contributor to the GDP of India (almost 17 percent) yet it also ranks among the primary emitters. It is critical to go to green manufacturing. Renewable energy, wastewater recycling, and zero-waste manufacturing can be implemented by the factories. Eco-efficiency is already encouraged by initiatives such as Zero Effect, Zero Defect by the Make in India. Moreover, sustainability can be cost-rewarding in terms of

- tax incentives to companies that use biodegradable materials or energy-efficient machinery. In this instance, waste is recycled to create 3D prints through a technique called recycling. 3D printing is becoming a savior of green production. India can produce cheap housing parts, furniture and urban infrastructure using filaments manufactured by using recycled plastic waste materials. Indian startups such as Replastico and the 3D printing of filament in Maker Village, Thiruvananthapuram have tried recycled filaments to fabricate them locally, and 3D printing has also helped remove transportation and material waste, providing a means to local and low-carbon making.
- Green Materials and Bamboo Revolution: Bamboo which is commonly referred to as green steel has great promise in regards to sustainable constructions. It is fast growing, absorbs carbon dioxide and it can be used to substitute the timber, cement or even plastic in most products. Other states such as Assam and Tripura have demonstrated how by using bamboo, rural unemployment can be reduced and forests saved. One initiative is the National Bamboo Mission that is geared towards increasing its use in furniture, packaging, and housing. Even 3D-printed bamboo composites and bamboo homes and bridges may become the symbol of the green Viksit Bharat.
- Renewable power and Intelligent infrastructure: India already has achieved so well with renewable energy. By the year 2024, the nation has set up more than 180 GW of renewable energy, and this has seen it become one of the global leaders on clean energy. We are internationally leading in solar power, manifested in the International Solar Alliance (ISA) which was initiated by India. Solar panels installed on rooftops, biogas installations and mini-hydroelectric systems can ensure that each village is energy independent. Green roofs, electric means of transport, and a system to harvest rain water can be incorporated into smart cities. The Viksit Bharat of tomorrow will be characterized by sustainable infrastructure, that is, made out of recycled materials and energy, which is clean.
- Sustainable Agriculture: Agriculture supports almost half a population of India yet it drains 80 percent of freshwater. This burden can be reduced by promoting organic farming, drip irrigation and drip pumps powered by solar. Other programs such as Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana promote organic farming that does not endanger the soil health and minimal pollution by chemicals. Agri-waste also can be used in the production of bioenergy or compost, so there is nothing wasted even in villages. Contribution of young people, Innovation, and Technology The most significant strength of India is its youthful population. It has more than 65 percent of people under the age of 35 and therefore creativity can push them to green revolution. Start up India and digital India can develop into green India for promoting ecological innovation. Artificial intelligence will be able to optimize energy consumption; drones will be able to patrol

- forests, and blockchain will be able to trace carbon credits. Research of renewable materials, waste-to-energy systems, and sustainable design should be promoted in universities. Technology can be futuristic in the realm of India because it enables the progress of the country, as well as the planet.

Conclusion :

The Green Path to 2047 It is not a dream but a duty to have a sustainable and green Viksit Bharat. Every citizen will be able to make his/her contribution, be it through less utilization of plastic, planting trees, or purchasing locally produced environmentally friendly products. Individual governments, industries and communities are to come together and entrench sustainability in all spheres of life. The Earth can afford to give whatever every man requires, but not encourage every man to be greedy the way Mahatma Gandhi once put it. India is at the crossroads. We can create a Viksit Bharat that is not only at the head of the world in development, but also in sustainability by taking age-old wisdom and applying it to the present day innovation through recycling, green manufacturing, renewable energy and responsible living. Our progress will be genuinely decided by a future when all the achievements are green.

Building a Sustainable and Green Viksit Bharat

ESSAY 02 | ARSHDEEP KOUR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Symphony of the Soil and Sun :

Weaving the Tapestry of a Green Viksit Bharat **"Prithivi matarmahyam tvam dehi putram tanayam vishve deva abhi garbham dhatt apo anu pravodhyantam."** This shloka is from the first hymn (sukta) of the 12th chapter of Atharva veda. It means, "Mother Earth, grant me a son. May all the gods implant the embryo. May the waters sprout the child." On the banks of the Bellandur Lake in Bengaluru, a disturbing yet familiar sight recurs- a mountain of toxic white froth, a stark symbol of the chasm between our developmental ambitions and ecological reality. This image, juxtaposed with the visionary goal of a Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047, presents a defining challenge : how do we orchestrate an economic renaissance that also heals our planet? By weaving together a triad of citizen centric innovations-a dynamic green currency, and a self-cleaning infrastructure we can architect a future where every Indian becomes an active shareholder in our nation's green destiny.

Sustainability is like a candle that can provide us light while we write the future of our Viksit Bharat @ 2047. But if the candle flame is left unattended; it can burn down all the papers we have written so far for the future of India. According to the Economic Survey 2024-25, India ranks as the 7th most vulnerable country to climate change. The blueprint for a Green Viksit Bharat lies in orchestrating a symphony between hyperlocal environmental accounting and a national marketplace for sustainability. Our current endeavours, though commendable, often resemble solo instruments playing in isolation. From the recent **VARANASI SUMMIT 2025** to the **Union Budget 2025-26**, which allocates Rs 26,549.38 crore to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - a massive 53.48% jump from last year's revised Rs 17,298.44 crore. And even if we are taking such initiatives, is it enough? IT IS NOT!

We champion solar energy, yet its storage remains a silent barrier. We campaign against plastic, yet our solutions often end in landfills or downcycled futility. We envision a circular economy, but lack the connective tissue to make it a lived reality. This dissonance stems from a central flaw: a one-size-fits-all approach in a nation of breathtaking diversity. The arid plains of Rajasthan and the lush deltas of Bengal cannot sing the same green song. Our path forward must be a composition that values every unique local rhythm. Therefore, putting forward my crescendo: The Innovative Ideas that I have to give which will be my humble contribution in building a sustainable and green Viksit Bharat, a stepping stone in this amrit kaal.

1. **THE GREEN RUPEE - A CURRENCY FOR CONSCIOUS CITIZENSHIP :** Imagine a system where a farmer in Punjab, adopting water-saving Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), is not just conserving a resource but earning a digital asset. Verified via satellite imagery or a local Agri-Clinic, his/her action would automatically credit 'Green Rupees' (GR) to his/her digital

wallet on a secure, blockchain-based public ledger. The mechanism: Built on a secure, transparent digital public infrastructure, the GR ecosystem would be federated. The central government sets the robust protocol, but state and district administrations define the value of actions based on their local ecological priorities. A farmer in water-stressed Marathwada earns significant GR for adopting drip irrigation, while a homeowner in Delhi is incentivized for installing a rainwater harvester.

- The application:
  - Agriculture: Farmers earn credits foradopting water-saving techniques(like DSR), organic farming, and agroforestry.
  - Urban Living: Households and housing societies earn credits for waste segregation, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and using solar power.
  - Transportation: Citizens earn credits for using public transport, cycling, or using electric vehicles.
  - Corporate Sector: Companies can purchase these verified credits to offset their environmental footprint, creating a demand-driven market.
  - Fulfil UNGA SDGs: 1, 11, 12, 13, 17.

2. MY CORE MEDIATION HIGHWAYS - BIOLOGY AS OUR CHIEF ENGINEER : While the Green Credit system incentivizes future action, we must also remediate the legacy of our industrial past. Here, we can turn our very infrastructure into a living, breathing cleansing unit. Instead of viewing our millions of kilometres of road embankments and railway sidings as inert structures, we must re-envision them as "Mycoremediation Highways." The mechanism : The mechanism is elegantly biological. By integrating specific, non pathogenicstrains of mycelium- the root network of fungi like Pleurotus ostreatus (Oyster Mushroom)- into this soil, we create a massive, passive filtration system. These fungal networks are nature's master decomposers, scientifically proven to digest complex hydrocarbons, pesticides, and microplastics. As road runoff, laden with tire dust, engine oil, and heavy metals, permeates th ese embankments, the "Myco-Filter" breaks down the pollutants before they can contaminate groundwater and adjacent farmland and these can be integrated into all new projects under the PM Gati Shakti initiative.

- The application:
  - National Highways & Railways: Embedding mycelium into embankments to filter runoff from roads, capturing microplastics, heavy metals, and oil residues.
  - Industrial Zones: Creating "myco-barriers" around industrial estates to prevent groundwater contamination.
  - River & Lake Rejuvenation: Using strategically placed mycelial mats along polluted

- riverbanks to continuously clean water seeping into the river.
- Landfill Remediation: Accelerating the breakdown of organic waste and neutralizing toxins in landfill leachate.
- Fulfil UNGA SDGs: 6, 9, 11, 15.

As recently pointed out by the honourable Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology while addressing the 3rd International Conference on Green Hydrogen, "clean energy is no longer a matter of environmental choice, but an "economic, technological, and strategic imperative" for the nation's growth." **"Agnimide purohitan yajnasya devamrtvrtijam, hotaran ratnadhataam."**

Taken from the Agni suktam, this first hymn of the Rig Veda paints the sun's dual nature, which can be harnessed or combated as needed, "Agni (fire) is the heat of the sun and makes the waters flow, the whole universe is filled with its energy." It is our turn to contribute our part in this amrit kaal to a viksit bharat, So, let our growth be green, and our progress be pure, from Bellandur's distress, we will find a lasting cure.

ESSAY 03 | TANISHKA NAVALE
MAHARASHTRA

शाश्वत आणि हरित विकास हीच विकसित भारताची खरी ओळख आहे. खऱ्या अर्थाने विकास म्हणजे केवळ तांत्रिक गती, आर्थिक वाढ आणि पायाभूत सुविधांचा विस्तार नव्हे, तर जबाबदारीने वाढ घडवणे, नैसर्गिक पर्यावरणाचे संरक्षण करणे आणि भावी पिढ्यांसाठी गुणवत्तापूर्ण जीवन सुनिश्चित करणे होय. निसर्ग आणि मानव यांच्यात शांतता व सुसंवाद राखणे हीच शाश्वत प्रगतीची खरी दिशा आहे.

शाश्वत विकास म्हणजे तांत्रिक प्रगतीच्या जोडीने नवीन संधी निर्माण करणे आणि नैसर्गिक संसाधनांचे जतन करणे. हरित आणि स्वच्छ पर्यावरणासाठी सामूहिक प्रयत्न, तंत्रज्ञान, पारंपरिक ज्ञान आणि प्रत्येक नागरिकाचा सक्रिय सहभाग अत्यावश्यक आहे. भारत 2047 पर्यंत विकसित राष्ट्र बनण्याची आकांक्षा बाळगतो — आणि या प्रवासाचा पाया शाश्वत विकासावर आधारित असला पाहिजे.

झपाट्याने होणारे शहरीकरण आणि औद्योगिकीकरण यामुळे ऊर्जेची मागणी वाढत आहे. नैसर्गिक संसाधनांचा अतिरेकी आणि असंतुलित वापर केल्यामुळे प्रदूषण, जंगलतोड, जैवविविधतेची हानी, हवामान बदल, भूजलाचा ऱ्हास आणि कचरा व्यवस्थापनाच्या समस्या निर्माण होत आहेत. अशा स्थितीत होणारा विकास दीर्घकालीन ठरणार नाही आणि भावी पिढ्यांसाठी संसाधनांची कमतरता निर्माण होऊ शकते.

ऊर्जा हा विकासाचा कणा आहे. स्वच्छ आणि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जेचा विस्तार करण्यासाठी भारत वचनबद्ध आहे. आज भारत जगातील सर्वात मोठ्या सौरऊर्जा उत्पादक देशांपैकी एक आहे. पवनऊर्जा, जलऊर्जा, जैवइंधन आणि आधुनिक ऊर्जा तंत्रज्ञानाच्या माध्यमातून हरित ऊर्जेकडे वाटचाल सुरू आहे. राष्ट्रीय सौर मोहिम, रूफटॉप सौर प्रकल्प, ई-मोबिलिटी आणि संबंधित पायाभूत सुविधा हे उपक्रम स्वच्छ ऊर्जा परिवर्तनाला चालना देत आहेत.

देशाच्या अन्नपुरवठ्याची जबाबदारी शेतकऱ्यांच्या खांद्यावर आहे. कृषीभूमीचा मोठा भाग आजही पारंपरिक शेतीपद्धतीवर अवलंबून आहे, ज्याचा मातीच्या गुणवत्तेवर परिणाम होतो. खतांचा आणि कीटकनाशकांचा अतिरेकी वापर मातीची धूप, रासायनिक प्रदूषण आणि जास्त पाणी वापर निर्माण करू शकतो. म्हणूनच मायक्रो-इरिगेशन, ड्रिप सिंचन, स्मार्ट सेन्सर, माती-आधारित शेती उपाय आणि सौर पंप यांसारख्या तंत्रज्ञानाचा वापर करून अचूक शेतीकडे वाटचाल आवश्यक आहे.

शहरी भारत दररोज मोठ्या प्रमाणात घनकचरा आणि औद्योगिक कचरा निर्माण करतो. चुकीच्या पद्धतीने फेकल्या जाणाऱ्या कचऱ्यामुळे जलप्रदूषण, भूमीसंपत्तीचे नुकसान आणि मानवी आरोग्यावर गंभीर परिणाम होतो. उद्योगांनी जबाबदारीने कचरा व्यवस्थापन करणे आणि शासनाने कठोर अंमलबजावणी करणे आवश्यक आहे.

प्रत्येक नागरिकाने पर्यावरणपूरक जीवनशैली अवलंबणे ही आजची काळाची गरज आहे — प्लास्टिकचा कमी वापर, जैवविघटनशील वस्तूंचा स्वीकार, 4R तत्त्व (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) पालन, घनकचरा वर्गीकरण आणि घरगुती पुनर्वापर यामुळे पर्यावरणीय संतुलन मजबूत होते.

हरित पायाभूत सुविधा, शाश्वत शहरे, स्मार्ट ट्रान्सपोर्ट, हरित इमारती, शहरी हरितक्षेत्रे आणि स्वच्छ सार्वजनिक वाहतूक ही भविष्यातील शहरांची आधाररचना ठरत आहे. सौर छप्पर, ऊर्जा कार्यक्षम गृहनिर्माण, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहने आणि सार्वजनिक परिवहन व्यवस्था — हे सर्व उपक्रम स्वच्छ, परवडणारे आणि टकाऊ जीवन प्रदान करतात.

भारत हा विशाल जैवविविधतेचा संपन्न देश आहे — घनदाट जंगले, नद्या, पाणथळ भाग, सागरी परिसंस्था आणि वन्यजीव हे आपल्या पर्यावरणीय संतुलनाचे घटक आहेत. त्यांचे संवर्धन करणे ही आपली सामूहिक

जबाबदारी आहे. गंगेचे संवर्धन, किनारपट्टी संरक्षण, सागरी प्रदूषण टाळणे, वन्यजीव संरक्षण आणि नैसर्गिक अधिवास जतन करणे अत्यंत आवश्यक आहे.

पारंपरिक ज्ञान आणि आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञान यांचे संतुलित एकीकरण — रेन वॉटर हार्वेस्टिंग, नैसर्गिक शेती, आयुर्वेद, टकाऊ वाहतूक, AI, रोबोटिक्स आणि IoT आधारित उपाय — हे सर्व आधुनिक शाश्वततेसाठी महत्त्वाचे स्तंभ आहेत.

विकसित भारत 2025 आणि 2047 च्या दृष्टीने —

नवीकरणीय ऊर्जेचा विस्तार, हरित रोजगार, शाश्वत उत्पादन-वापर पद्धती, नागरिकांचा सक्रिय सहभाग आणि पर्यावरणपूरक सवयी — हेच भारताच्या भविष्यासाठी अत्यावश्यक घटक आहेत.

शाश्वत भविष्य घडवणे ही केवळ पर्यावरणीय गरज नसून — ती राष्ट्रीय जबाबदारी आहे. ऊर्जा, शेती, उद्योग, शहरे आणि निसर्ग यांच्यातील संतुलन राखूनच भारत खऱ्या अर्थाने समृद्ध, हरित आणि भविष्य-तयार विकसित राष्ट्र बनू शकतो.

INNOVATION WITH TRADITION

BUILDING A MODERN BHARAT



ESSAY 01 | VIVIDH YADAV
UTTAR PRADESH

In the quiet villages of ancient India, under starlit skies that whispered secrets of the cosmos, scholars like Aryabhata pondered the dance of planets and etched the concept of zero onto palm leaves, a simple yet revolutionary idea that would underpin the mathematics of the modern world. Fast forward to today, where Bengaluru's bustling tech parks hum with algorithms that power global economies, and you see not a rupture, but a seamless thread: innovation blooming from the soil of tradition. As India hurtles toward its Viksit Bharat vision by 2047, a developed nation pulsating with self-reliance and global leadership, the key lies not in discarding our heritage, but in reimagining it.

By fusing the timeless wisdom of our traditions with the dynamism of contemporary technology, we can craft a Modern Bharat that is sustainable, inclusive, and unstoppably creative. This essay explores how this synergy, rooted in our cultural ethos, propels us toward a future where progress honors the past. Our journey begins with the profound innovations embedded in India's ancient traditions, which offer blueprints for today's challenges. Consider the Vedic scriptures, composed over three millennia ago, that articulate principles of ecological harmony long before "sustainability" became a buzzword.

The Atharva Veda, for instance, describes the earth as a nurturing mother, urging a circular economy where resources are revered and regenerated, ideas echoed in modern concepts like zero-waste systems. Ancient practices such as rainwater harvesting, detailed in texts like the Brihat Samhita, sustained agrarian societies amid monsoons and droughts, fostering mixed cropping and organic manure without the scourge of chemicals. These weren't mere rituals; they were ingenious adaptations to nature's rhythms, much like the holistic healing of Ayurveda, which integrates body, mind, and spirit.

Today, Ayurveda's resurgence in modern healthcare exemplifies this blend, proving its relevance in a post-pandemic world grappling with holistic wellness. According to surveys, nearly 77% of Indian households incorporate Ayurvedic remedies into their routines, while over 700,000 registered practitioners bridge traditional herbs with clinical protocols. The World Health Organization's recent ICD-11 update, incorporating Ayurveda alongside Siddha and Unani, signals global validation, paving the way for integrated treatments in public hospitals. Imagine a diabetes patient in rural Uttar Pradesh combining turmeric based formulations (haldi doodh, a Vedic staple) with AI-monitored glucose apps; this isn't fantasy, but the reality of startups like NirogStreet, which digitize ancient formulations for telemedicine. Such integrations don't just heal; they empower, reducing healthcare costs by

up to 30% in pilot programs and aligning with Viksit Bharat's goal of universal well being. This spirit of adaptive ingenuity finds its boldest expression in India's space odyssey, where tradition's "jugaad", that quintessential frugal resourcefulness, meets cutting edge engineering. The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Mangalyaan mission, which orbited Mars in 2014, cost a mere $74 million, less than the Hollywood blockbuster Gravity's budget and a fraction of NASA's $671 million Maven probe.

What fueled this triumph?

A team of young engineers drawing from jugaad's ethos of doing more with less, honed through generations of making do in resource-scarce villages. They repurposed off-the-shelf components, simulated failures with everyday analogies like bicycle chains, and launched on the first try. This wasn't blind thrift; it was tradition reengineered, echoing the ancient metallurgists who forged the rust-resistant Iron Pillar of Delhi over 1,600 years ago, a marvel of sustainable materials science. Fast-forward to Chandrayaan-3's 2023 lunar south pole landing, again under $75 million, and you see ISRO's model scaling: indigenous tech reducing import dependency by 90%, creating jobs in ancillary industries, and inspiring a generation of STEM innovators. In a Viksit Bharat, such missions aren't endpoints; they're launchpads for asteroid mining and space tourism, all grounded in our ancestral knack for elegant efficiency.

Yet, the true alchemy happens at the grassroots, where startups are weaving tradition's threads into modernity's digital loom, revitalizing rural economies and cultural pride. Take Weavehand, a Kochi-based venture that's empowered over 1,000 rural artisans—mostly women from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, by blending handloom weaves with AI-driven design tools and e-commerce. Traditional motifs from Madhubani paintings or Kanjeevaram silks, once confined to local haats, now grace global wardrobes via algorithm optimized patterns that predict trends while preserving authenticity. Similarly, MeMeraki, India's pioneering culture-tech platform, offers online masterclasses by folk artists in Sikki grass weaving or Warli painting, reaching 50,000 learners worldwide and generating sustainable incomes that rival urban salaries. Platforms like Bare Craft use AI to match artisans with bespoke orders, from Chikankari embroidery on fusion wear to block-printed sustainable fabrics, cutting middlemen and boosting earnings by 40%.

These aren't charity models; they're market disruptors, aligning with Aatmanirbhar Bharat by exporting $10 billion in handicrafts annually while upskilling 5.5 million artisans. In doing so,

they combat urban migration, foster gender equity—women lead 60% of these ventures, and infuse Viksit Bharat's economy with a uniquely Indian resilience: innovation that doesn't erase roots but amplifies them. Looking ahead, this fusion holds the promise of transformative leaps, from smart cities inspired by Vedic urban planning to AI decoding Sanskrit epics for ethical algorithms. Envision Nagpur's rainwater grids, augmented by IoT sensors, mimicking ancient stepwells to combat water scarcity; or biotech firms engineering drought-resistant crops from Vedic agro-texts, slashing farmer suicides by enhancing yields 25%.

By 2047, a Modern Bharat could lead in green patents, with tradition as its ethical compass, ensuring tech serves humanity, not exploits it. Challenges remain: bridging digital divides in hinterlands and safeguarding intellectual property for indigenous knowledge. Yet, with policies like the National AYUSH Mission investing $2 billion, the momentum is undeniable. In conclusion, innovation with tradition isn't a nostalgic detour; it's the highway to Viksit Bharat, a nation where ancient gyan fuels quantum leaps, and every citizen is a co creator of destiny. As a young Indian, I've witnessed this in my grandmother's spice remedies outpacing pharma pills, and in ISRO's stars mirroring our Diwali lamps. Let us, the youth, be the weavers: honoring the loom of heritage while threading in tomorrow's silk. By 2047, may Bharat stand not just developed, but deeply rooted, vibrant, visionary, and victorious. For in blending old and new, we don't just build a modern nation; we reclaim our eternal one.

ESSAY 02 | ANGELA VINCENT
UTTARAKHAND

Introduction

The Soul of Bharat Meets the Spark of Innovation India is a land where the past breathes through the present. From the chants of the Vedas to the algorithms of artificial intelligence, Bharat's journey is not about choosing between tradition and innovation, it's about harmonizing them. As we stride toward the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the centenary of independence, the question is not whether tradition can coexist with innovation, but how it can lead it. Ancient Wisdom as the Foundation of Modern Solutions India's traditional knowledge systems Ayurveda, Yoga, Vastu Shastra, Panchayati Raj, and sustainable agriculture are not relics. They are living technologies.

- Ayurveda and Biotech: Modern pharmaceutical companies are now investing in Ayurvedic formulations backed by clinical trials. For example, CSIR's AYUSH research integrates traditional remedies with molecular biology.
- Agriculture and Permaculture: Techniques like zero-budget natural farming promoted by Padma Shri Subhash Palekar revive ancient soil wisdom while reducing chemical dependency.
- Architecture and Sustainability: Vastu Shastra principles are being reinterpreted in green building designs, such as the IGBC certified buildings that blend energy efficiency with cultural aesthetics. These examples show that tradition is not a barrier, it's a blueprint. Innovation Rooted in Identity India's start-up ecosystem is booming, but what makes it uniquely "Bharatiya" is its grounding in local needs and cultural ethos.
- Start-ups like Dehaat and Ninjacart use AI and logistics to empower farmers, echoing the spirit of Gram Swaraj.
- EdTech platforms like Byju's and Vedantu blend digital tools with storytelling, a nod to the gurukul tradition of immersive learning.
- Handloom-tech hybrids like Resha Mandi use IoT to support weavers, preserving heritage while scaling impact. This is not just innovation, it's innovation with soul. STEM with Sanskrit: Education as a Bridge As Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam said, "The ignited mind of the youth is the most powerful resource on Earth." To build a modern Bharat, we must ignite minds with both critical thinking and cultural grounding.
- STEM education is being integrated with Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). IITs and NITs now offer courses in Vedic mathematics, ancient metallurgy, and Sanskrit computing.
- NEP 2020 promotes multilingual learning and experiential education, allowing students to explore robotics alongside classical arts. This fusion creates not just skilled professionals, but rooted visionaries. Bharat's Soft Power : Tradition as Global Influence India's cultural exports Yoga, Ayurveda, festivals, cuisine are now global movements.

- International Yoga Day, celebrated in 180+ countries, is a symbol of India's spiritual leadership.
- Ayurvedic wellness tourism in Kerala and Uttarakhand attracts millions, blending healing with heritage.
- Digital diplomacy through platforms like MyGov and G20 showcases India's ability to lead with values. Tradition is not just internal, it's India's global signature.

Governance: Tradition Inspiring Innovation India's democratic ethos is deeply rooted in sabha and samiti systems of ancient republics.

Today, this spirit inspires :

- Digital India and e-Governance: Platforms like DigiLocker and UPI simplify citizen access, echoing the ancient idea of accessible rajya.
- Panchayati Raj 2.0: Local governance is being digitized, empowering villages with real time data and decision making tools. This is tradition reimagined not as nostalgia, but as functional wisdom. Sustainability: Ancient Rhythms for Modern Resilience Climate change demands urgent action, and Bharat's traditions offer timeless solutions.
- Sacred groves and water harvesting: Practices like Johads in Rajasthan and Kunds in Gujarat are being revived to combat drought.
- Eco-conscious festivals: Innovations like seed Ganesh idols and solar lit diyas show how rituals can evolve sustainably. Here, tradition becomes a guardian of the future. Cultural Continuity in a Digital Age In the age of AI and VR, preserving cultural identity is vital.
- Digital archives of manuscripts, folk songs, and oral histories are being created to safeguard intangible heritage.
- Virtual reality recreations of ancient cities like Hampi and Varanasi allow youth to experience history interactively. This is not preservation, it's cultural regeneration.

Conclusion :

The Future Is Rooted To build a modern Bharat, we must not uproot our past, we must replant it in the future. Innovation with tradition is not a compromise, it's a creative convergence. It allows us to build skyscrapers that honour the sun, code algorithms that chant mantras, and design policies that echo dharma. As we move toward 2047, let us remember: Bharat's strength lies not in choosing between tradition and innovation, but in weaving them together. That is how we build not just a modern nation but a civilizational renaissance.

ESSAY 03 | SHRUUTI SURANA
UTTAR PRADESH

The concept of evolution in itself is the very objective of existence. It is as important for a Nation to evolve, as it is for an organism to evolve and adapt. Evolution of a Nation-State is not just limited to embracing the new, but more importantly revolves around re-imagining the old. India, one of the world's oldest living civilizations offers a powerful example of how tradition can become a catalyst for innovation. "Modern Bharat" is not a break from the heritage—rather, it is a confident fusion where technology enhances tradition, science validates ancient tradition, and cultural identity becomes a driver of global competitiveness. This synergy defines India's transformation today.

India's arts, crafts, and rural industries represent centuries of knowledge passed down through generations as a celebration of heritage.

However, these traditional sectors historically struggled with limited market access, outdated tools, primitive production methods and financial instability. Modern Bharat is changing this narrative through policies that integrate innovation with cultural heritage. The SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) stands at the forefront of this transition. By creating artisan clusters equipped with modern machinery, design studios, and digital training, SFURTI enables craft communities to scale productivity without diluting their identity.

India has already lost some of its most beautiful traditional heritage like the Wurtz Steel owing to the blind focus of the then rulers towards industrialization. SFURTI aims to preserve and promote traditional techniques while meeting the global quality standards.

The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme reinforces this empowerment by supporting 18 traditional artisanal professions such as carpenters, goldsmiths, potters, blacksmiths, and sculptors. The scheme offers digital identity cards, next-generation toolkits, collateral-free loans, and skill upgradation programs. It also promotes digital payments and global branding, ensuring artisans transition seamlessly into modern supply chains. One of India's most innovative tools for preserving tradition is Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag). GI Tag offers legal protection to region specific crafts, agricultural products, and traditional skills, ensuring authenticity and global recognition.

GI Tags have not only enabled and empowered the artisans who preserve our tradition but

also helped them scale to the global market arena without the fear of their art being stolen by global sharks. The GI System helps artisans protect their intellectual property, prevents counterfeiting, and increases export value.

The Ministry of MSME also provides grants to them to enable them to claim their intellectual property without carrying any financial burden. India's ancient knowledge systems – Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, Unani and Indigenous wellness sciences offer timeless insights into health, nutrition and well-being. The AYUSH Ministry plays a central role in this integration. Through clinical research, modern diagnostics, and digital initiatives like AYUSH Grid, it enables traditional medicine to meet global standards.

YOGA, once restricted to scriptures only, is now recognized internationally and celebrated for its multidimensional approach to human health.Equally revolutionary is the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a digital repository of over 400,000 formulations from classical Indian texts. By mapping these to international patent classifications, TKDL protects India's traditiona l medicinal knowledge from global biopiracy. For example, India successfully challenged wrongful patents on turmeric and neem using TKDL evidence. This represents innovation not just in technology but in legal and intellectual-property strategy.

A landmark convergence of ancient and modern science is seen in Ayurgenomics. This field correlates Ayurveda's prakriti (body constitution) with modern genomic markers, offering pathways to personalized medicine. Supported by CSIR and ICMR, Ayurgenomics shows how traditional knowledge can open frontier research areas rather than remain confined to histor Culture preservation is a defining feature of India's modernization journey. Instead of treating heritage as static, India is digitizing it for global access and long-term conservation.

The **Indian Heritage in Digital Space** (IHDS) initiative uses 3D scanning, virtual reality storytelling and digital reconstruction to preserve monuments and artefacts. Visitors from any country can take a virtual tour of Ajanta caves, explore the Konark Sun Temple in 3D, or examine sculptures in high-resolution digital models. Complementing this effort is the Science and Heritage Research Initiative (SHRI), under the Department of Science and Technology. SHRI uses advanced imaging, spectrometry, and materials analysis to conserve

ancient architecture, archaeological sites, and traditional materials. This scientific approach ensures that heritage is preserved with accuracy and authenticity.

India's manuscript heritage is also undergoing a renaissance.

Under the National Manuscripts Mission and IGNCA, millions of manuscripts covering philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, literature, and medicine are being digitized, catalogued, and translated. These digital archives ensure that India's intellectual traditions, once accessible only to a few scholars, are now available worldwide.India's traditional ecological practices hold solutions to many of today's sustainability challenges. Modern Bharat is drawing on this ancient wisdom and enhancing it with contemporary science. In water management, traditional structures such as stepwells, tanks, johads, and village ponds are being revived using hydrological studies, GIS mapping, and sensor-based water monitoring. The integration of old designs with new technology offers sustainable long term solutions for drought-prone regions.

Natural farming models rooted in traditional soil care are supported by cutting-edge tools such as drones, AI-based crop monitoring, soil health cards, and solar irrigation under schemes like **PM-KUSUM**.

The global revival of millets, where India led the UN's International Year of Millets, shows how indigenous crops and traditional nutrition can power futuristic food systems.

A truly modern nation is not one that abandons its past, but one that transforms it into a force for the future. India's journey shows that innovation and tradition are not opposites, they are complementary forces.

When craft clusters adopt digital tools, when GI tags protect heritage, when **Ayurveda meets genome science**, when manuscripts go online, and when ancient water wisdom combines with satellite mapping, India is not just modernizing, it is redefining modernity.

Modern Bharat is being built not through imitation, but through illumination: by drawing on the depth of its civilizational knowledge while confidently embracing the possibilities of the future. This unique development model offers a compelling message to the world, innovation becomes truly powerful when it is rooted in identity.

VIKSIT BHARAT YOUNG LEADERS DIALOGUE 2026

09TH-12TH JANUARY I BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI

Inspiring stories



NORTHEAST ZONE

BRAJAKUMAR SINHA

TRIPURA

I had spent ten years in a wheelchair, and those years changed everything I thought I knew about strength, hope, and the human spirit.

I come from a farming family, where life is measured in seasons, strength, and the ability to stand on one's own feet. Losing that ability did not just take away my movement, it took away certainty, independence, and the simple dignity of contributing to my family's daily labor.

There were days when hope felt heavier than the wheelchair itself. Yet, even then, I refused to give up. With the unwavering support of my family and a determination born out of necessity, I began the slowest battle of my life. Using bamboo sticks, I taught my body to remember what it had forgotten. Every step was uncertain. Every fall tested my resolve. I chose not to let my hardship become the end of my story. Instead, I turned it into a beginning.

Today, I work to promote fitness awareness, motivate Divyang youth, and contribute to building a healthier and stronger society. This commitment to health and empowerment naturally led me to discover opportunities like Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.

I first learned about the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue quiz from a relative, and exploring the My Bharat platform, this opened my eyes to the incredible reach of government initiatives. It inspired me to engage more actively and instilled a deep sense of inspiration in me to show every young person with a disability around the country that national-level participation and achievement are possible for anyone willing to take the step.

My journey is a testament to the power of resilience and courage. It is a reminder to everyone that no matter how long the darkness lasts, each of us has the strength to rise, to move forward, and to inspire those around us to believe in their own potential.

CENTRAL ZONE

RENU MANGTANI

UTTAR PRADESH

Life tested me in ways I never imagined when my husband became paralyzed. In that moment, the future I had known shifted completely. Responsibility, fear, and quiet strength became part of my everyday reality.

When I participated in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 state championship, my husband came to support my dreams in an ambulance. His presence reminded me that strength is not physical alone. Sometimes it exists in its presence. Him being there gave me the strength to remain unshaken.

I continue to move ahead with the hope of representing my state and my country on higher platforms. My journey stands as a symbol of determination, emotional strength, and the profound power of family support.

I believe that when women are given encouragement and opportunity, there is no challenge they cannot overcome. Through my perseverance, I aspire to inspire others to rise, especially when the road ahead feels impossibly heavy and through Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, I want to make those who trust me proud while supporting Honourable PM Modi ji's vision of a Viksit Bharat.

EASTERN ZONE

KISHAN KUMAR SAHU

ODISHA

Coming from Mayurbhanj, a tribal-dominated region of Odisha where life is defined by hard work but where life is deeply connected to nature and tradition. Education was seen as a luxury, and ambition was considered a dangerous distraction. Many children simply accepted their limits before they could even imagine what else was possible.

There were days when hope felt distant, and the idea of leaving my village seemed unimaginable, almost impossible.

Yet I persisted. I earned opportunities to represent Odisha at national platforms, Parliament tributes, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and national-level declamation competitions, becoming the first person from my village to do so. Every stage I stood on was built on countless obstacles, and the weight of all those who were denied a chance followed me there.

By joining Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue I hope to transform my grassroots experiences from rural and tribal Odisha into practical, scalable solutions aligned with India's development goals. I aspire to serve the nation by promoting education, cultural awareness, and democratic values. My journey reflects the spirit of a new India, one that rises despite neglect, draws strength from resilience.

SOUTHERN ZONE

SAKTHIBARATHI V

TAMIL NADU

I come from a small village in Tamil Nadu where girls were not expected to study, and dreaming beyond that was seen as defiance. There were days when continuing my education felt like walking against an invisible wall, where fear and doubt followed every step. My father and grandmother stood beside me as my only emotional refuge when the path felt unbearable.

With their support, I became the first graduate and the first Siddha doctor from my village, an outcome once considered unthinkable.

Clearing my Class 10 examinations and choosing medicine demanded courage far greater than my age. I held on to one promise alone, to fulfill my grandmother's dream of seeing me become a doctor, so that no family in our village would have to travel long distances in search of basic medical care.For the first time in my life, I travelled alone from my village to Chennai to attend the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue PPT round. That journey was the first time I stepped beyond everything familiar, completely alone, carrying fearwith me, and learning, painfully, that I could still move forward.

Today, I aspire to become a civil servant and serve the nation with integrity and I believe joining Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is my first step towards that goal. I am in search of better exposure, networking opportunities and to be inspired and Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is the perfect ground for that. My journey reflects the spirit of Viksit Bharat, where education breaks silence, defies inherited barriers, and turns impossible beginnings into the foundation of a stronger India.

NORTHERN ZONE

ASHWINI KUMAR

RAJASTHAN

I come from a background where education was non-existent. In tribal communities like mine, schools were distant, books were scarce, and learning was never assumed to belong to us. Many children grew up without ever entering a classroom, not because they lacked ability, but because opportunity simply did not exist.

I believe that education is the most powerful force capable of bringing real and lasting change, I started TVS Education, a small initiative to provide free education to tribal students. The task felt impossible. Teaching meant working against hunger, distance, fear, and years of exclusion. Progress was slow, fragile, and often uncertain. Through platforms like Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, I now see a launchpad to strengthen this effort, by learning, connecting, and scaling grassroots work so it can reach far beyond where it began.

Yet something extraordinary happened. Children who had never spoken in confidence began to raise their voices. Education started to do what once seemed unthinkable, it broke social barriers that had stood for generations.

My work with tribal communities, driven purely by service, was eventually recognized by the United Nations.

I firmly believe that a strong nation is built when every child, especially those denied opportunity, is given the chance to learn and grow.


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