ISSN 2350-1049

International Journal of Recent Research in Interdisciplinary Sciences (IJRRIS)
Vol. 12, Issue 4, pp: (25-28), Month: October - December 2025, Available at: www.paperpublications.org

INNOVATION-LED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES MARCHING TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18031596

Published Date: 23-December-2025

Abstract: **India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047 popularly articulated as *Viksit Bharat 2047*marks a transformative national vision aligned with economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and global leadership. Central to this vision is *innovation-led development,* which emphasizes the strategic integration of technology, policy reform, institutional capacity and grassroots participation to accelerate inclusive growth. This article examines how innovation functions as a critical driver for achieving *Viksit Bharat 2047* by analysing policy frameworks, development practices, sectoral strategies and institutional mechanisms. Drawing on national initiatives such as *Start-up India*, *Digital India*, Skill India, *Atmanirbhar Bharat, NIPUN Bharat* and the *National Innovation Ecosystem*, the study explores innovation across agriculture, industry, health, education, governance, human capital and sustainability. The article identifies key challenges including regional disparities, digital divides, skills mismatch and governance constraints, while proposing actionable strategies such as decentralized innovation systems, public–private partnerships and mission-oriented policy design. By situating innovation at the intersection of economic growth, social equity and environmental resilience, the article argues that India's journey towards*Viksit Bharat 2047* depends not merely on technological advancement but on systemic, inclusive and sustainable innovation pathways.**

Keywords: **Digital Transformation, Inclusive Growth, Innovation Ecosystems, Sustainable Development, Viksit Bharat 2047, Youth Entrepreneurship.**

1. INTRODUCTION

India stands at a critical juncture in its development trajectory. With the centenary of independence approaching in 2047, the Government of India has articulated the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, aiming to transform India into a developed, inclusive and resilient nation. This vision encompasses improved health, progressive education, economic growth, social justice, environmental sustainability, technological leadership and strong institutional transformation (Government of India, 2022).Innovation has emerged as a cornerstone of this transformation. Unlike conventional growth models reliant on capital accumulation and resource extraction, *Innovation-Led Development* emphasizes knowledge creation, technology diffusion, institutional reforms and human capital development (OECD, 2018). For a diverse and populous country like India, innovation offers pathways to address persistent challenges such as poverty, unemployment, agricultural distress, urban congestion and climate vulnerability.

India's policy landscape over the past decade reflects a deliberate shift towards innovation-driven governance. Initiatives such as *Digital India*, *Start-up India*, Skill India, *Make in India*,*NIPUN Bharat*, *Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat*and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* have sought to harness technology and entrepreneurship to drive inclusive development (NITI Aayog, 2021). Simultaneously, India's rising global innovation rankings underscore the growing maturity of its innovation

ecosystem (WIPO, 2023).This article explores how innovation-led strategies can enable India to achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047. It analyzes policy frameworks, sectoral practices, challenges and future strategies, emphasizing the need for inclusive, decentralized and sustainable innovation models.

2. BACKGROUND

Innovation in the development context extends beyond technological invention to include *process innovation, social innovation, institutional innovation and policy innovation* (Schumpeter, 1934). Development economists increasingly recognize innovation as a systemic phenomenon shaped by interactions among governments, markets, academia and civil society (Lundvall, 2010).

In emerging economies, innovation plays a dual role: enhancing productivity and addressing structural inequalities. Inclusive innovation defined as innovation that benefits marginalized populations has gained prominence as a development paradigm (Heeks, Foster, & Nugroho, 2014). For India, where regional and social disparities persist, innovation must be both growth-enhancing and equity-oriented. This is how the *Viksit Bharat* framework implicitly adopts this systemic view, positioning innovation as an enabler across sectors rather than a standalone objective.

3. POLICY FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN INDIA

India's innovation-led development strategy is anchored in multiple national policies and missions. The *National Innovation and Start-up Policy, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) 2020, Atal Innovation Mission, NIPUN Bharat Mission, Skill India, Make in India, Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat* and*Digital India Mission* provide institutional and financial support for innovation across sectors (DST, 2020). The National Education Policy 2020 is a landmark in the innovation march.

Key policy instruments include:

- Fiscal incentives for startups and R&D
- Innovation clusters and incubation centers
- Centres of Excellence on Innovation
- Public Private Partnerships (PPP)
- Open digital public infrastructure (e.g., Aadhaar, UPI), etc.

The *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* further emphasizes indigenous innovation, supply chain resilience and domestic manufacturing (Government of India, 2020). Together, these policies aim to position innovation as a national capability rather than a sector-specific intervention.

4. INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture remains central to India's socio-economic fabric, employing nearly half the workforce. Innovation-led agricultural development focuses on *precision farming, digital advisory services, climate-smart practices and value-chain integration* (FAO, 2019).

Technologies such as drones, satellite imaging, mobile-based advisory platforms and solar-powered irrigation systems have the potential to enhance productivity while conserving resources. Social innovations, such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and community-based irrigation management strengthen collective action and market access. Thus, innovation in rural development is critical for achieving *Viksit Bharat*, as it directly addresses poverty, food security and migration challenges.

5. INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING TRANSFORMATION

India's ambition to become a global manufacturing hub under *Make in India and Skill India* relies heavily on innovation in production processes, logistics and skill development. Industry 4.0 technology automation, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT) are reshaping manufacturing competitiveness (World Economic Forum, 2020). Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a pivotal role in this transition. Innovation support through technology upgradation, credit access and cluster-based development enhances SME productivity and employment generation.

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6. INNOVATION IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Innovation in health care is central to India's vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. The country is rapidly adopting digital health technologies such as telemedicine, Aarogya Rath (Medical on Wheels), Practices under Kuposhan Mukt Bharat, AI-driven diagnostics, robotics surgery and electronic health records to bridge gaps in accessibility and affordability. Initiatives like *Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission* are creating a unified health ecosystem, ensuring that even rural populations benefit from advanced medical services. Breakthroughs in biotechnology, affordable pharmaceuticals and indigenous medical devices are strengthening India's capacity to provide world-class care while reducing dependency on imports. By 2047, these innovations aim to deliver universal health coverage, eradicate preventable diseases and build a resilient system capable of addressing both traditional and emerging health challenges.

Education, equally vital to the *Viksit Bharat 2047* agenda, is undergoing a transformation through technology and policy reforms. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) emphasizes holistic, integrated, innovative, joyful, enjoyable and multidisciplinary learning, skill development along with innovative digital tools to prepare students for the future economy. Smart classrooms, experiential learning, online platforms and AI-powered personalized learning are expanding access to quality education across socio-economic divides. At the same time, skill development, vocational training and research-driven universities are nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship. By 2047, India envisions an education system that not only equips its youth with global competencies but also fosters creativity, critical thinking and inclusivity laying the foundation for a knowledge-driven society that powers economic growth and social progress.

7. DIGITAL INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Digital innovation has transformed governance in India, improving service delivery, transparency and citizen engagement. Platforms such as *Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)* and *UMANG*exemplify how technology can reduce leakages and enhance accountability (Kumar & Gupta, 2021).Digital public infrastructure has emerged as a global model, demonstrating how innovation can support inclusive governance at scale. However, addressing the digital divide remains essential to ensure equitable access to these benefits.

8. HUMAN CAPITAL AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Human capital development is fundamental to innovation-led growth. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes experiential learning, critical thinking and interdisciplinary education to prepare a future-ready workforce (Ministry of Education, 2020).Skill innovation through digital learning platforms, apprenticeships and industry-academia partnerships aligns workforce capabilities with emerging economic opportunities. Youth entrepreneurship initiatives further integrate innovation with employment generation.

9. SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE INNOVATION AND GREEN GROWTH

Viksit Bharat 2047 explicitly recognizes sustainability as a development imperative. Innovation in renewable energy, circular economy practices and climate-resilient infrastructure supports low-carbon growth (UNEP, 2021).India's leadership in solar energy and commitment to net-zero emissions by 2070 highlight the role of green innovation in balancing development and environmental stewardship.

10. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN INNOVATION-LED DEVELOPMENT

Despite progress, India faces several challenges:

- Uneven regional innovation capacity
- Limited R&D investment relative to GDP
- Skills mismatch and informal employment
- Institutional fragmentation
- Lack of Technology Expertise, etc.

These constraints underscore the need for coordinated policy action and inclusive innovation strategies (NITI Aayog, 2022).

11. STRATEGIC PATHWAYS AND SUGGESTIVE MEASURES

To realize *Viksit Bharat 2047*, the following strategies are critical:

1. Decentralizing innovation ecosystems to States and Districts.
2. Strengthening public Private Partnerships.
3. Enhancing R&D investment and commercialization pathways.
4. Promoting inclusive and frugal innovation.
5. Integrating innovation metrics into development planning.

Thus, mission-oriented innovation policies can align stakeholders around shared national goals.

12. CONCLUSION

Innovation-led development offers a transformative pathway for achieving *Viksit Bharat 2047*. By integrating technology, policy reform, human capital and sustainability, India can address structural challenges while fostering inclusive prosperity. The success of this vision depends on ensuring that innovation remains people-centric, regionally balanced and environmentally responsible. As India advances toward its centenary, innovation must evolve from a policy priority to a societal ethos driving the chariot wheel of national development.

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