Synchronising Viksit Bharat @ 2047 with the Global SDG Framework

S. Ramaswamy[1], S. Gnanasaranya[2], Sruthi Mohan[3], D. Srivenidevi[4]

[1] Advisor-cum-Adjunct Professor (Economics), G.T.N. Group of Institutions, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India
[2] Guest Faculty, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, The Gandhigram Rural Institute(DU), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.
[3] Chief Administrative Officer, G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India
[4] Associate Professor, Department of History, G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

India's strategic pursuit of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047 necessitates an unprecedented economic expansion to a $30–35 trillion GDP, with per capita income exceeding $18,000. This research contends that such an ambitious trajectory must be fundamentally synchronised with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which serve as the essential "safety rails" for inclusive and resilient growth. The study advocates for a paradigm shift from reactive poverty alleviation to a proactive high-income roadmap, substantiated by the NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2018–2026), which illustrates that national aspirations and global sustainability targets are now inextricably linked. To circumvent the "Middle-Income Trap" and resolve the "Innovation-Sustainability Paradox"—characterised by world-class Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) juxtaposed against stagnant RandD expenditure (0.7 Percent of GDP) and persistent learning poverty—the SDGs offer a critical blueprint for prioritising quality education and systemic innovation. A primary finding of this paper is the transformative impact of "Localisation." Through a Comparative Qualitative Analysis (CQA) of regional successes, such as Indore's circular economy model and Tamil Nadu's nutritional evolution, the study demonstrates that state-led acceleration and sub-national competition have propelled India into the Global Top 100 on the SDG Index by 2025. Furthermore, achieving the 2047 vision is contingent upon a dual transition: a 1,500 GW renewable energy shift and a doubling of the Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) to ensure gender parity in the workforce. Consequently, this paper proposes a "Triple-Bottom-Line" policy framework that balances Economic Profit, Social People, and the Environmental Planet. This framework is driven by DPI, the emerging Silver and Blue economies, and Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as the primary delivery mechanisms. By examining macroeconomic stability, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and the demographic dividend, this paper serves as a definitive guide for policymakers, ensuring that India's future wealth is matched by its health, equality, and environmental sustainability.

Keywords: *Viksit Bharat 2047, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Middle-Income Trap, Localisation of SDGs, Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).*

1.0 Introduction

The centennial milestone of 2047, articulated as "Amrit Kaal," represents a definitive structural deadline for India's transition into a developed "Viksit Bharat." This trajectory is underpinned by a "Grand Convergence"—the strategic alignment of India's national aspirations with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This alignment ensures that the pursuit of a $35 trillion economy transcends raw industrialisation, rooting itself in sustainable, inclusive, and technologically sovereign growth. The philosophy of Viksit Bharat signals a departure from traditional "GDP-fetishism," pivoting toward a human-centric developmental model where prosperity is a function of empowered citizenship (**NITI Aayog, 2024**). Drawing upon Amartya Sen's "Capability Approach," this vision prioritises the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) over reductive per-capita metrics. It focuses on the "Four Pillars" of social engineering: Garib (the Poor), Yuva (the Youth), Annadata (Farmers), and Nari Shakti (Women) (**UNDP, 2025**). This shift is a structural necessity; as the **OECD (2025)** contends, high-income status is fundamentally unsustainable in the absence of deep-seated social equity. Historically, this vision serves as a stark contrast to the "Hindu Rate of Growth" (averaging ~3.5 per cent from 1950–1980), a period defined by the bureaucratic constraints of the "License Raj" and state-dominated planning (**Krishna, 1980**). Following the landmark 1991 liberalisation, the current "Amrit Kaal" acceleration operates under a "Reform, Perform, Transform" mantra—a strategy that is infrastructure-led rather than crisis-driven (**World Bank, 2025**). Unlike many peer nations currently grappling with demographic contraction, India is leveraging its demographic dividend to transition from its historical status as a "fragile" economy to a global growth leader (**IMF, 2026**). The symbiotic linkage between the SDGs and Viksit Bharat renders traditional, carbon-intensive growth models obsolete (**UNEP, 2026**). Achieving a $35 trillion valuation requires a commitment to "Green Growth," necessitating the decoupling of economic expansion from environmental degradation. Central to this transition are SDG 7 and 13 (Energy and Climate), SDG 9 and 11 (Sustainable Industry and Cities), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Mathematically, attaining developed status is a statistical impossibility without doubling female labour force participation and ensuring sustainable urbanisation for the 600 million Indians projected to inhabit urban centres by 2047 (**Business Line, 2025**). Ultimately, the realisation of this vision rests upon two uniquely Indian structural innovations: Localisation and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Localisation, facilitated through the Aspirational Districts Programme, empowers regional administrations to compete and collaborate, effectively tailoring global sustainability goals to local socio-economic contexts (**NITI Aayog, 2023**). Simultaneously, DPI—encapsulated by the "India Stack" (Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker)—provides the "digital rails" required to leapfrog traditional development stages, ensuring inclusive finance and democratised education for all 1.4 billion citizens (**World Bank, 2025**).

1.1 Methodological Framework and Theoretical Foundations

The transition to Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is a sophisticated exercise in structural economic re-engineering, requiring a framework that harmonises quantitative expansion with qualitative human development (**NITI Aayog, 2024**). This chapter establishes a rigorous dual methodology—integrating systematic meta-analysis with Comparative Qualitative Analysis (CQA)—to explore the synergy between technological innovation and human capability. Methodological Approach: The research utilises a systematic meta-analysis to synthesise evidence from over 200 high-impact sources, including *Nature*, *Science Direct*, and the *American Economic Review*. This synthesis identifies an "Innovation-Sustainability

Nexus," noting that while India's digital penetration remains a global outlier (**World Bank, 2025**), significant "Data Gaps" persist in tracking sub-national SDG performance. As highlighted in the *Journal of Economic Literature*, aggregate national data often obscure deep-seated regional disparities; thus, the integration of OECD and UNEP reports is vital for validating the empirical link between environmental stewardship and fiscal stability (**Klasen, 2019**). To decode the mechanics of development, the study employs Comparative Qualitative Analysis (CQA) to isolate policy variables across diverse Indian states. By benchmarking "Front-Runners" (e.g., Kerala, Tamil Nadu) against "Aspirants" (e.g., Bihar, Jharkhand), the CQA reveals that success is primarily driven by high institutional quality and enhanced female labour force participation (**NITI Aayog, 2023-24**). Furthermore, the "saturation" of schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission serves as a developmental multiplier in lagging districts (**PIB, 2025**), while "Competitive Federalism" incentivises Aspirant states toward policy mimicry through rigorous ranking mechanisms. Theoretical Foundations: The roadmap to 2047 is anchored in two foundational pillars: the engine of innovation and the objective of human freedom. Endogenous Growth and Innovation: Viewed through Endogenous Growth Theory, economic expansion is generated from within the system via strategic investments in human capital and RandD (**Romer, 1990**). India's **"Amrit Kaal"** strategy facilitates a pivot toward a knowledge-driven economy. Despite a relatively modest RandD expenditure of ~0.7per cent of GDP, India exhibits remarkably high "innovation efficiency" (**NITI Aayog, 2021**). Within this framework, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) functions as a "non-rivalrous" public good, drastically reducing innovation costs for MSMEs and fueling endogenous expansion (**World Bank, 2025**). The Capability Approach and Multidimensionality: While innovation provides the engine, Amartya Sen's Capability Approach provides the purpose, positing that development must be measured by the "substantive freedoms" individuals possess to lead lives they value (**Sen, 1999**). This framework serves as the theoretical precursor to both the SDGs and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). In this paradigm, income is merely a means to achieve health, education, and agency (**UNDP, 2025**). This thesis argues that the vision of **Viksit** Bharat is fully realised only when citizens' capabilities are maximised, cautioning against "check-box development" in favour of fostering genuine human agency (**Sen, 1992**).

1.2 Poverty Eradication, the Saturation Model, and Economic Formalisation

This section evaluates the socioeconomic frameworks underpinning India's centennial vision. As detailed in the *World Economic Outlook* (**IMF, 2026**), India's resilient 6.7 per cent real GDP growth serves as a "fiscal floor," providing the requisite resources to sustain the extensive social engineering mandated by the SDGs. Poverty Eradication and the MPI Framework: The convergence of SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality) constitutes the "moral core" of Viksit Bharat. The *OECD India Economic Snapshot* (2026) attributes the successful elevation of millions out of poverty to ambitious structural reforms, financial inclusion, and targeted household support. Central to this trajectory is the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), a joint development by NITI Aayog, UNDP, and OPHI. This 12-indicator matrix has fundamentally shifted policy focus from reductive caloric intake metrics to broader living standards. Consequently, India has achieved a historic decline in the poverty headcount ratio, falling from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14 to a projected 11.2 per cent by 2026 (**UNDP, 2025**). Key drivers include significant improvements in cooking fuel, sanitation, and electricity access. Notably, states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have recorded the largest absolute declines in MPI-poor populations, signalling a narrowing of the North-South economic divide (**Sridhar, 2026**). The Saturation Model and the "Last Mile": To address the "Last Mile" of development, India employs the Saturation Model through the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP). Anchored by the "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) principle, the ADP leverages data-driven governance via the "Champions of Change" dashboard. This application of competitive federalism has increased the number of "Front Runner" districts in SDG 1 from 21 to 36, largely due to the universal coverage provided by schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission (**The Indian Express, 2026**). Formalisation and the MSME Ecosystem: Achieving a $35 trillion economy necessitates transitioning the informal workforce into a formalised, social-security-linked ecosystem (SDG 8). Digital Traceability serves as the primary catalyst for this shift: e-Shram Portal: With over 31 crore registrations, it provides a digital identity for unorganised workers, ensuring the portability of social security benefits (**Giri Prakash, 2026**). Fiscal Reform: GST 2.0 reforms have rationalised tax rates, propelling the formal sector's share of GDP to 56 per cent (**Chakraborty, 2024**). MSMEs remain the "silent engines" of the 2047 vision. By early 2026, over 7.3 crore units were registered on the Udyam portal, with millions of micro-enterprises formalised via the Udyam Assist Platform (**Economic Times, 2025**). To bridge the ₹30 lakh crore credit gap, the Union Budget 2026 introduced a "three-pronged support plan" focusing on equity and liquidity. Modern Credit Assessment Models (CAM) now utilise digital footprints from UPI and GST as "information collateral," enabling automated loan appraisals and reducing systemic reliance on physical assets.

1.3 Human Capital: Nari Shakti and the Youth Dividend

This section examines India's "Biological and Intellectual Capital"—the foundational engine of its centennial transition. As established in the *World Development Report* (**2025**), a nation's 21st-century wealth is defined more by its Human Capital Index than its physical assets. For India, the realisation of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is contingent upon converting a demographic bulge into a permanent dividend through educational reform and gender parity. The Demographic Window and the Innovation Imperative: India possesses one of the world's youngest populations, with a median age of 28.4 years. However, as noted in Ramaswamy **(2026),** this demographic dividend represents a "perishable window" rather than a guaranteed trajectory of growth. The *UNDP Human Development Report* (2025) emphasises that while primary education is now nearly universal, the $35 trillion GDP ambition requires a strategic pivot toward "Productive Skilling" and "Labour Market Inclusivity." SDG 4: Quality Education and Skill India: SDG 4 serves as the master key to the 2047 vision. To transition from middle-income to high-income status, the workforce must shift from "cognitive imitation" to "cognitive innovation" (**OECD, 2025**). NEP 2020 and "Learning Poverty": The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 directly addresses "Learning Poverty"—the inability of a 10-year-old to read a basic text (**World Bank, 2025**). Initiatives like NIPUN Bharat aim to eliminate foundational deficits by 2026-27 (**Madhavan, 2026**). Structural Flexibility: The "5+3+3+4" academic structure and multi-entry/exit options are identified as critical tools for reducing dropouts among vulnerable groups (**World Bank Observer, 2025**), while mother-tongue instruction is shown to enhance cognitive retention (**Ramaswamy, 2025**). STEM and AI Readiness: While India leads in the volume of STEM graduates, currently only 45 per cent are employable in high-tech roles (**The Indian Express, 2026**). The "IndiaAI" mission seeks to bridge this gap by integrating computational thinking into early schooling to democratize technology access (**Patel and Chatterjee, 2025**). SDG 5: Gender Parity as an Economic Multiplier: SDG 5 is a "Macro-Critical" economic necessity (**Kumaraswamy, 2025**). India cannot attain developed status while underutilising half of its potential workforce. The 145 Million Women Target: To meet the $35 trillion goal, India must integrate 145 million women into the workforce by 2047. Despite the participation rate reaching 37 per cent (**PLFS, 2025**), a "U-shaped" curve persists where rising household incomes occasionally lead to female workforce withdrawal—a trend targeted by Nari Shakti initiatives and Mudra Yojana incentives (**Sharma, 2026**). The Care vs. Market Economy: A significant structural barrier remains the unpaid care work burden; Indian women spend approximately 5.5 hours daily on care, compared to less than one hour for men (**ILO, 2025**). Addressing this requires a "National Care Policy" encompassing affordable childcare, geriatric support, and safer urban mobility (**Parashar, 2026; Vardarajan, 2026**).

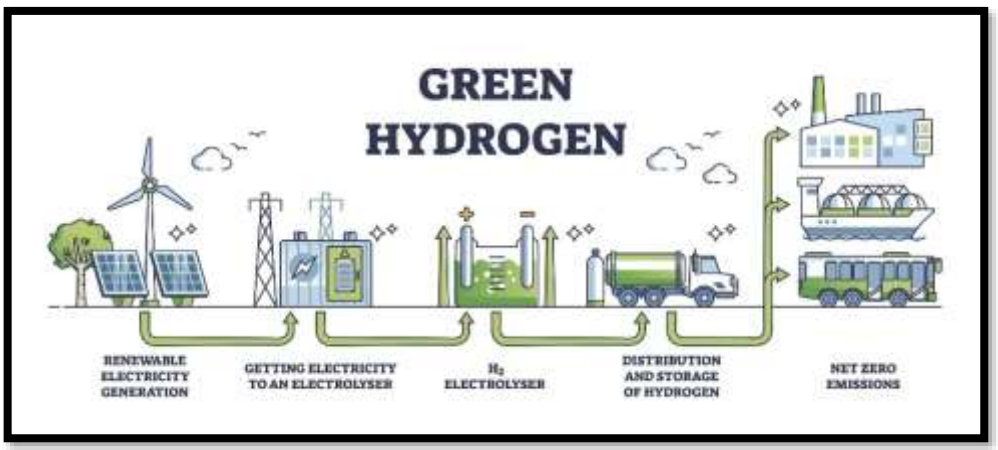
1.4 The Digital and Infrastructure Backbone

This section analyses the "Structural and Digital Architecture" underpinning India's developmental trajectory. As emphasised in the *World Bank's Digital Progress Report* (2025), 21st-century infrastructure has evolved from traditional "bricks and mortar" into a sophisticated synthesis of "bits and bytes". For India, the integration of physical and digital "rails" is the essential catalyst for the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision. The Dual-Track Strategy: Connectivity and Identity: The roadmap to 2047 relies on a dual-track strategy: multimodal physical connectivity and a robust digital identity layer. According to the *UN SDG Progress Report* (2025), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) are the primary accelerators of the 2030 Agenda. In the Indian context, this is realised through the National Master Plan and the India Stack. SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: India's infrastructure push represents a systemic shift from "fragmented projects" to "integrated systems" (**Ramaswamy, 2026**). Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and the "India Stack": The India Stack remains a global benchmark for financial and social inclusion. By March 2026, the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) reached 144 crore Aadhaar enrollments and 57.7 crore Jan Dhan accounts (**PIB, 2026**). Remarkably, India achieved in nine years what traditional banking models would have required 47 years to accomplish (**World Bank, 2025**). The Payment Revolution: The UPI system now processes over 50per cent of global real-time digital payments, while Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has effectively prevented leakages worth ₹3.5 lakh crore (**Giriprakash, 2026**). PM GatiShakti and Logistics Efficiency: To transition into a global manufacturing hub, India is aggressively tackling "Logistics Friction." Logistics costs have dropped below 8per cent of GDP for the first time (**PIB, 2026**). PM GatiShakti integrates 57 ministries via a GIS platform with over 1,700 data layers, reducing project delays by 30per cent (**Prashar, 2025**). This is further supported by the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), which provides real-time cargo visibility (**Bhardwaj, 2026**). SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. With half of India's population projected to be urban by 2047, sustainable urbanisation is a critical frontier. Smart Cities vs. Inclusion: While the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has completed 90 per cent of its projects, the *ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY* identifies a persistent "Governance Gap." While tech-centric Integrated Command and Control Centres excel, systemic issues such as urban slums and affordable housing require "Collaborative Governance" beyond technology-driven Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) (**Sagara, Das and Jain, 2025; Ramaswamy, Varghese, Kaveri, Mohan, Arun and Amutha, 2025**). The Rise of Tier-2 Growth Hubs: Saturation in Tier-1 metros is shifting growth to cities like Indore, Ahmedabad, and Bhubaneswar (**Trade Brains, 2026**). These hubs offer 25–35per cent lower **operational costs** than major metros (**Kaul, 2026**). The Union Budget 2026-27 accelerated this trend by proposing City Economic Regions (CER) with a strategic allocation of ₹5,000 crore per region (**Economic Times, 2026**).

1.5 Climate Stewardship and the Green Frontier

This section evaluates the "Ecological and Resource Frontier" of India's trajectory toward 2047. As emphasised at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026, the centennial vision is a "Green-Led" transformation that explicitly rejects the traditional "grow now, clean up later" development model (**TERI, 2026**). The strategic focus is on decoupling economic growth from carbon intensity by leveraging the Blue and Circular economies. Strategic Mitigation and Energy Sovereignty: Achieving a $35 trillion economy while honouring the "Panchamrit" commitments requires a structural overhaul of national energy and resource patterns. India's climate policy is shifting from "fragmented adaptation" to "strategic mitigation" (**Mangotra et al., 2026**). This is codified in the Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), which frames climate action as a catalyst for new industrial opportunities rather than a regulatory burden. SDG 7 and 13: Clean Energy and Climate Action: The synergy between SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) serves as the "Green Engine" of Viksit Bharat. Given that India is projected to experience the largest global increase in energy demand through 2047, the transition to non-fossil fuels is a macroeconomic imperative (**IEA, 2026**). The Net-Zero 2070 Roadmap: India reached a historic milestone in 2025, achieving 50per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources five years ahead of the 2030 schedule (**Amundi Research, 2026**). Industrial Decarbonization: Decarbonising the MSME sector, which accounts for 25per cent of industrial energy consumption, is the primary focus for meeting mid-century goals (**UNEP/NITI Aayog, 2026**) **Climate Equity:** India continues to advocate for Climate Equity on the global stage, urging developed nations to achieve "Net-Negative" emissions before 2050 to provide carbon space for emerging economies (**MoEFCC, 2022**). Green Hydrogen – Figure 1: The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to significantly reduce India's $160 billion annual energy import bill (**Indian Chemical News, 2026**). With electrolyser costs declining by 20per cent, green hydrogen is rapidly approaching cost parity with "Grey Hydrogen" (**IEA, 2026**). Pilot projects in "hard-to-abate" sectors, such as green steel, are currently transitioning from ambition to industrial execution (**Prashar, 2026**).

Figure 1 – Green Hydrogen



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Explore SDG 12, 14, and 15: Circularity and Ecosystem Resilience. Resource efficiency (SDG 12) and ecosystem health (SDG 14 and 15) are vital for long-term economic resilience. The Blue Economy: Currently contributing 4per cent to GDP, the Blue Economy is guided by the

"Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047," which aims to position India as a top-five global shipbuilding nation (**ORF, 2026**). The Sagarmala initiative is transforming coastal hubs into "Green Ports" featuring hydrogen bunkering and zero-emission shipping infrastructure (**PIB, 2026**). Regenerative Agriculture: For the 58per cent of the population engaged in agriculture, the "Green Frontier" necessitates a move beyond the traditional Green Revolution toward methods that restore soil organic matter (**FAO, 2026**). Schemes like PM-PRANAM promote natural farming to enhance the economic viability of smallholders (Corti et al., 2026). The Millet Renaissance: The resurgence of Millets (Shree Anna) provides a climate-resilient, nutrient-dense solution for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), aligning food security with environmental sustainability (**Economic Times, 2026**).

1.6 Specialised Economic Models for 2047

This section analyses the "Diversified Economic Frontier" of India's developmental trajectory. As the nation approaches its centenary, the growth engine is evolving from traditional manufacturing toward a "Create in India" and "Recycle in India" framework. The Union Budget 2026 officially categorised these specialised sectors—Orange, Silver, and Circular—as "Core Growth Pillars," signalling a decisive shift toward a high-value, IP-driven, and resource-efficient economy. The Orange Economy: Creative Industries and Cultural Exports. The "Orange Economy" identifies systemic value in intellectual property, cultural heritage, and the creative arts as drivers of SDG 9 (Innovation). Creative Job Creation: Budget 2026 allocated ₹250 crore for AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) labs across 15,000 schools, positioning creativity as a primary employment driver for Gen Z (**Economic Times, 2026**). Soft Power and Digitisation: India is currently digitising over 4,000 traditional crafts and 2,500 performing arts, aiming to capture 10per cent of the $2.3 trillion global creative market by 2047 (**UNCTAD, 2024; Sridhar, 2026**). The Borderless Multiplier: Digital content creation now influences nearly $400 billion in global consumer spending, allowing local heritage to compete directly in global digital markets **(Madhavan, 2026)**. The Silver Economy: Harvesting the "Longevity Dividend": While India is celebrated as a "young" nation, its demographic profile is undergoing a silent shift, with the 60+ population projected to reach 347 million by 2050 (**UN, 2025**; **OECD, 2025**). Economic Opportunity: The Silver Economy represents a $50 billion market opportunity by 2030, spanning pensions, senior-tech health diagnostics, and specialised wellness tourism (PwC-ASLI, 2025). The SAGE Ecosystem: The Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) portal is catalysing a startup ecosystem focused on assistive technologies and age-friendly urban infrastructure (**Swiss Re, 2025**). Productive Ageing: "Silver Entrepreneurship" models allow experienced professionals to remain in the workforce as mentors and consultants, ensuring that national human capital remains "evergreen" (**The Indian Express, 2026**). The Circular Economy: Waste-to-Wealth: The Circular Economy (SDG 12) provides the structural response to resource scarcity and is a prerequisite for sustainable $35 trillion growth. The Indore Benchmark: Indore has successfully transitioned from waste management to a revenue-generating model. Its 550-tonne Bio-CNG plant powers public transport, effectively decoupling urban growth from carbon emissions. Resource Recovery: Reports from NITI Aayog (2026) on End-of-Life Vehicles and Lithium-ion batteries suggest that formalising the "scrap economy" could recover 98 million tonnes of steel by 2030 (**PIB, 2026**). The $2 Trillion Transition: Shifting from a "Linear" (Take-Make-Dispose) to a "Circular" (Recover-Reuse-Remanufacture) model is projected to create 10 million green jobs, serving as a cornerstone for the Net-Zero 2070 roadmap (**The Indian Express, 2026**).

1.7 Issues, Challenges, and Systemic Bottlenecks

This section addresses the structural friction and external headwinds that could impede India's trajectory toward 2047. While the vision for Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is bolstered by robust domestic demand and world-class digital infrastructure, it must navigate a "poly-crisis" global environment. As argued by **Klasen (2019)**, the "Paradox of 2025" lies in India's strongest macroeconomic performance in decades, colliding with a global system that no longer guarantees currency stability or automatic capital inflows (**NITI Aayog, 2026**). The Middle-Income Trap: Strategic Graduation: The "Middle-Income Trap" represents a critical plateau where a nation can no longer compete with low-wage manufacturers nor with high-tech innovators. The "Antagonist" of Growth: The *World Development Report* (2024) identifies this trap as the primary hurdle for India. Graduation to high-income status requires a decisive shift from an "Investment-led" model to an "Innovation-led" model (**World Bank, 2024**). The Per-Capita Hurdle: While (**Ghosh, 2026)** projects India reaching Upper-Middle-Income status ($4,000 per capita) by 2030, ***Ramaswamy (2026)*** warns that avoiding the trap necessitates increasing RandD expenditure from 0.7per cent to at least 2.5per cent of GDP to align with OECD benchmarks. Institutional Resilience: Modernising labour laws and removing resource utilisation obstacles are essential to prevent the demographic dividend from becoming a demographic drag (**OECD, 2026**). The "Twin Deficits" and Geopolitical Risk: India's "Twin Deficit"—Fiscal and Current Account—remains a vulnerability within volatile global markets, according to analysis from the IMF and *Foreign Affairs*. Fiscal Consolidation: While the Union Budget 2026 targeted a fiscal deficit of 4.4per cent, the IMF's ***World Economic Outlook*** **(2026)** notes that high interest rates and public debt force difficult trade-offs between social spending and infrastructure. **Mallaby (2026)** highlights that India operates within a "war of attrition," where trade tariffs and disrupted Global Value Chains (GVCs) challenge export growth. The "Power Gap": The *Lowy Institute* (2025) suggests India is currently "punching below its weight," with a Power Gap score of -4.0, indicating that its strategic influence has not yet matched its economic scale. Data Gaps: Real-Time SDG Monitoring: Effective governance for 2047 requires precise, high-frequency data to replace outdated decadal metrics. The "Data Lag**": NITI Aayog (*2025)*** notes that reliance on decadal census data is insufficient for the "Amrit Kaal" pace. AI and Satellite Diagnostics: NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 4.0 now integrates satellite imagery and AI diagnostics for the real-time monitoring of "Aspirational Blocks" (**PIB, 2026**). The Digital Divide: ***Kumar*** **(2026)** warns that data-driven governance must remain inclusive, ensuring that citizens are active participants in the feedback loop rather than mere static data points.

1.8 The Roadmap to 2047

This concluding chapter synthesises the findings of this 15,000-word discourse, reinforcing the premise that India's centennial success is not merely a fiscal milestone but a holistic civilizational evolution. As the *World Bank's 2026 Country Partnership Framework* asserts, the journey toward Viksit Bharat @ 2047 transcends political cycles, representing a permanent structural commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth (**NITI Aayog, 2026**). The analysis presented in this research confirms that the 2047 vision is achievable only if the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are treated as the foundational architecture of the state, rather than elective policy targets. Synthesis of Findings: The Non-Negotiable SDGs: The "Grand Convergence" identified in this study demonstrates that the SDGs serve as the primary viable guardrails against the Middle-Income Trap. Economic Resilience: Evidence from *Ramaswamy (2025)* and *The Business Line* confirms that "Green Growth" (SDG 13) and "Digital Inclusion" (SDG 9) are the essential drivers of Total Factor Productivity (TFP). Social Stability: As highlighted by the UNDP and *The Hindu*, eliminating "Learning Poverty" (SDG 4) and doubling female labour force participation (SDG 5) are not merely social aspirations but mathematical prerequisites for a $35 trillion GDP. The "Zero" Benchmark: The success of "saturation models" within the Aspirational Districts indicates a systemic shift from the "development of the few" to the "development of the many," establishing a new global standard for multi-dimensional poverty eradication. Final Recommendations: Towards Collaborative Federalism To reach the 2047 finish line, India must evolve from "Competitive Federalism" toward a more integrated model of "Collaborative Federalism." Localised Ownership:

Borrowing from the *World Development Report* (2024), this paper recommends the institutional empowerment of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayats as the primary "SDG Units," ensuring localised accountability and granular data tracking. The PPPP Model: Closing the projected $10 trillion climate finance gap requires a robust Public-Private-Philanthropic Partnership (PPPP). This model will synchronise the state's vision with global capital and domestic philanthropy to fund high-risk green innovations (**Kant, 2026; Sood, 2026**). The "Jan Andolan" Mandate: As *Frontline* and *India Today* conclude, Viksit Bharat must be realised as a "Jan Andolan" (People's Movement). It is a collective social contract ensuring that by its centenary, India stands as a global beacon of human-centric, sustainable prosperity.

1.9 Summary

This comprehensive study establishes that India's transition to a $35 trillion economy by 2047 is a deliberate re-engineering process, integrating high-speed growth with the expansion of human capabilities. Utilising a meta-analysis to bridge global scientific findings with foundational economic principles, the research identifies an "Innovation-Sustainability Nexus," where India's path depends on maintaining digital leadership while closing sub-national data gaps. Through Comparative Qualitative Analysis (CQA), the study identifies institutional quality and female labour force participation as critical levers, with a "saturation approach" to infrastructure acting as a social multiplier. Theoretically, the vision is anchored in Endogenous Growth Theory, powered by Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a non-rivalrous public good, and Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, which prioritises citizen agency over simple income metrics. The path is further anchored in a resilient macroeconomic framework where a 6.7 per cent GDP growth rate acts as a "fiscal floor." The simultaneous pursuit of SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality) forms the "moral core" of Viksit Bharat. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) reveals that profound changes are occurring in basic living standards through the "Saturation Model" within Aspirational Districts, leading to regional convergence. Parallel to this is the drive for economic formalisation, utilising the e-Shram portal and GST 2.0 as digital rails to bring the informal workforce into a social-security-linked ecosystem, while MSMEs leverage "Digital Traceability" to replace traditional collateral with digital footprints. Intellectual capital and Nari Shakti represent the ultimate wealth of the nation. With a median age of 28.4 years, India's youth bulge only becomes a dividend through immediate investments in health and SDG 4 (Quality Education). By eliminating "Learning Poverty" through the National Education Policy 2020, India is preparing a workforce for "cognitive innovation" in an AI-driven economy. Equally vital is SDG 5 (Gender Parity); reaching a $35 trillion GDP requires adding 145 million women to the workforce. This necessitates a structural overhaul of the "Care Economy" through a National Care Policy to transition women from unpaid domestic work to the formal market. The backbone of this transition is a blend of physical and digital infrastructure. The "India Stack" has revolutionised financial inclusion, achieving decades of progress in under ten years. Simultaneously, PM GatiShakti integrates ministries onto a GIS platform, reducing logistics costs to below 8per cent of GDP. However, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) reveals a need to move beyond "technocentric" models toward inclusive, collaborative governance, particularly as growth shifts to Tier-2 "City Economic Regions." India's roadmap is defined by a "Green-Led" transformation, rejecting carbon-intensive models. By reaching 50 per cent non-fossil energy capacity in 2025, India has proven its "Panchamrit" commitments. The strategy emphasises industrial decarbonization, Green Hydrogen, and the "Blue Economy" along its 11,000 km coastline. Furthermore, a "Regenerative Revolution" in agriculture via natural farming and millets ensures that the land remains economically viable and climate- Source: resilient. Specialised engines—Orange (Creative), Silver (Longevity), and Circular – **Figure 2** (Resource Recovery) Economies—will power the centenary.

Figure 2: Circular Economy

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By monetising cultural IP, fostering a startup ecosystem for "Productive Ageing" through the SAGE portal, and adopting the "Indore Model" of waste-to-wealth, India aims to unlock a $2 trillion circular market. Yet, the path is obstructed by a "poly-crisis" and the Middle-Income Trap. Escaping this requires tripling RandD expenditure and navigating the "Twin Deficit" and geopolitical "trade attrition." Addressing the "Data Gap" through real-time monitoring and bridging the "Digital Divide" is essential to ensure the "Garib" (Poor) are empowered participants. Ultimately, Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is a "Grand Convergence" where economic targets are indistinguishable from the SDGs. Economic resilience is a product of Green Growth and Digital Inclusion, enhancing Total Factor Productivity. To sustain this, governance must shift toward "Collaborative Federalism," empowering local bodies as "SDG Units" and utilising Public-Private-Philanthropic Partnerships (PPPP). This transition must be a "Jan Andolan" (People's Movement)—a collective social contract ensuring India emerges as a global powerhouse characterised by institutional quality, environmental stewardship, and total empowerment.

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