

The Youth Voice in India's National Youth Policy for 2025: Viksit Bharat @ 2047

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Abstract

In order to empower young Indians as agents of change, the "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" vision incorporates youth voice through platforms such as the Youth Parliament and Voice of Youth. The goal is to channel the ideas of young Indians into a National Youth Policy (NYP) for 2025, with a focus on skill development, digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, and holistic growth (education, health), with the goal of fostering innovation and self-reliance for a developed India by the year 2047. This vision goes beyond traditional engagement in order to co-create policies and drive national development.

Important Mechanisms & Themes

Young People as Drivers: focuses on young people as change agents and beneficiaries, going beyond consultation to actively co-create India's future. **Platform-Based Engagement:** Enables various youth to exchange thoughts on national issues through the use of digital tools (MY Bharat Portal) and formal platforms (Youth Parliament, VBYLD).

Focus Areas: Includes the opinions of young people on important pillars such as employment, education (NEP), digital transformation, sustainable development, and cultural preservation. Through programs like Skill India and Digital India, holistic development links young people's voices to more general objectives of producing capable, creative, and responsible citizens. A key component of India's 2047 vision, the National Youth Policy 2025 seeks to develop job creators, advance wellbeing, and match youth ambitions with national objectives. In essence, the New Youth Policy for 2025 makes use of structured discussions and digital platforms to translate youth ideas into practical policy. This places young people at the centre of the process of reaching "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by the year 2047, which represents a substantial change toward youth-led nation-building.

1. Introduction

The Government of India inaugurated a program called "Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth" through the use of video conferencing on 11th December 2023. There were workshops held at Raj Bhawans all over the country to celebrate the commencement of this project. During the program, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Vice Chancellors of Universities, Heads of Institutes, and faculty members. These workshops were conducted to mark the beginning of this endeavour. The Prime Minister began his presentation by expressing his profound gratitude to all of the Governors for their efforts in convening today's workshop for the development of Viksit Bharat. He also stated that today is a special occasion in relation to this resolution. The contributions that they made in bringing together all of the stakeholders who are responsible for leading the youth of the nation in the direction of achieving the aim of Viksit Bharat 2047 were praised by him. During his speech, Prime Minister Modi emphasized the significance of educational institutions in the process of personality development in individuals.

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He also stated that the development of a nation is directly proportional to the development of its people. While expressing his hopes for the success of the Voice of Youth workshop, the Prime Minister emphasized the significance of personality development in the current era and expressed his sincere wishes for its success. In his speech, the Prime Minister stated that history gives a period of time in the life of any nation during which the nation has the potential to make exponential steps in its journey toward technological advancement. "This Amrit Kaal is ongoing" and "this is the period in the history of India when the country is going to take a quantum leap" are examples of phrases that describe India's current situation. He provided instances of a number of neighboring countries that have made such a quantum leap in a predetermined amount of time and established themselves as developed nations. He stated, "For India, this is the time, the right time (Yahi Samay hai, Sahi Samay hai)," and went on to say that each and every instant of this Amrit Kaal has to be exploited.

The necessity of focusing the enthusiasm of young people from all educational institutions on the shared objective of "Viksit Bharat" was emphasized by Prime Minister Modi. The Prime Minister acknowledged the variety of viewpoints and emphasised the need to integrate them all in order to construct a prosperous India. In order to realise the dream of Viksit Bharat@2047, Shri Modi called on all citizens to surpass their own expectations. In order to reach a wider audience of young people, he proposed launching separate campaigns at all of the nation's educational institutions. The Prime Minister informed the audience that they can submit suggestions on five distinct topics through the newly launched Ideas Portal, which is connected to Viksit Bharat. Additionally, a reward has been set up for the top ten recommendations. He further mentioned that My Gov was another platform where visitors may provide feedback. With the comment, "Idea begins with an 'I' just like India begins with an 'I'," the prime minister emphasized that progress can only start with the 'I' of the self. The Prime Minister elaborated on the procedure of soliciting suggestions, stressing the need of producing an Amrit generation that places the nation's interests first. Beyond just education and skill sets, he urged people to be vigilant for the nation's interest and to have a strong sense of civic duty. A nation advances when its inhabitants, in whatever capacity, begin to perform their responsibilities, the prime minister stated. Water conservation, electricity savings, reduced chemical use in farming, and public transportation were some of the ways he outlined for preserving natural resources. To re-energize Swachhta Abhiyan, address lifestyle issues, and encourage youth to explore the world beyond mobile phones, he sought advice from the educationist fraternity. Specifically, he wanted them to set an example for the kids. He urged the audience to recognize that degree holders had to possess a minimum of one practical skill and that social thought is also represented in government. A thorough process of brainstorming on these themes should be continued at every level of government, including at the state and federal levels, he stressed.

Likening the time it took to build "Viksit Bharat" to cramming for an exam, the prime minister praised the students' self-assurance, diligence, and preparedness while also praising the role that families played in instilling the necessary self-control. He made the observation that, as citizens of the nation, we have also received notice of the exam date. A quarter of a century of Amrit Kaal awaits us. The mission of Viksit Bharat requires our undivided attention at all times. The prime minister stressed that this is the kind of atmosphere that families must strive to achieve. India will have the largest working-age population for the next 25 to 30 years, and the world will take note of this, Shri Modi said, pointing out that the country's youth are driving the rapid population growth. "Youth power is both the agent of change and the beneficiaries of change," Prime Minister Modi stated. The next quarter of a century, he said, will determine the fate of today's college students' professional lives. The prime minister made a point of mentioning that the next generation will be the ones to build new families and societies, and he went on to say that the youth of India should have the final say in the design of a developed nation. The Prime Minister elaborated by saying that the government's goal is to involve all of India's young in the plan for a developed India in this spirit. Educational institutions that have extensive interaction with India's youth should play a pivotal role in shaping their perspectives and contributing to the country's policy agenda for development, according to the prime minister.

2. Mera Yuva Bharat (My Bharat)

After the Prime Minister's cabinet resolution on October 11, 2023, the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) program was created as an independent entity with the goal of being a revolutionary, tech-driven platform for youth development. Its primary goal is to give young people equitable chances to fulfil their dreams and actively participate in creating a Viksit Bharat (developed India). The program would prioritize youth-led development at all governmental levels, promoting advancement and creativity through inclusive initiatives and strategic partnerships.

With the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2014, India hopes to enable its young people to realize their full potential, which would allow the country to assume the position that is rightfully it's on the international scene. Among the eleven priority categories that are outlined in the policy are education, skill development, employment, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, sports, social values, community engagement, political participation, youth inclusion, and social justice. A new version of the National Youth Policy has been evaluated and produced by the government, and it is currently available for public feedback. This new version is built on the foundation of the National Youth Policy of 2014. The purpose of this revised draft is to propose a ten-year plan for the development of youth, with the objective of realizing India's young potential by the year 2030. The newly implemented strategy, which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, is intended to unleash the transformative power of India's youth in order to push the country's advancement.

With a focus on future-ready skills, mental well-being, technology integration, education (NEP 2020 alignment), sports, health (mental/reproductive), and inclusive social justice for all youth, India's Draft National Youth Policy (NYP) 2025 seeks to empower youth for a developed India by the year 2047. The policy seeks public input for its finalization in order to build a generation that is skilled, healthy, and responsible.

3. Key Pillars & Focus Areas

❖ Education and Skills

There is a wide range of learning paths that are included in education. These learning pathways include formal learning, vocational and technical training, as well as many forms of informal and experiential learning. Taking all of these factors into consideration, young people are provided with the foundational knowledge, professional competences, and practical skills that are necessary for a world of work that is always changing. On the other hand, technological advancements, increased automation, and globalization are altering the nature of job and education. The traditional schooling system cannot guarantee meaningful employment on its own. In order to bridge the gap between the outcomes of their education and the requirements of the labor market, young people require skills that are adaptive, the ability to think critically, and consistent exposure to surroundings that are typical of industry. The youth unemployment rate is 10.2%, according to the PLFS 2023–24, while a significant number of graduates still lack the skills necessary for a modern economy that is driven by innovation, according to the Economic Survey 2023–24. Both of these statistics are indicative of this gap. In addition, a sizeable portion of India's unemployed workforce is comprised of young people who are looking for work. This highlights the importance of ensuring that education, skill development, and the demands of the labor market are more closely aligned.

❖ Entrepreneurship and Innovation

India is one of the most vibrant innovation hotspots in the world, and its quickly increasing start-up ecosystem reflects the country's burgeoning spirit of invention and business. India's research and development (R&D) base needs to be strengthened in order to maintain this momentum, since R&D spending now accounts for only 0.7 percent of GDP. Acknowledging this need, the government created the Trillion Rupee Research Development and Innovation fund to strengthen the country's innovation environment and speed up knowledge generation. By encouraging creativity, problem-solving abilities, and early exposure to innovation platforms like incubation centres and intellectual property systems, NYP 2025 seeks to foster entrepreneurial thinking in young people. The

strategy would support youth-led business ventures in cutting-edge fields like manufacturing, digital services, healthcare, tourism, robotics, artificial intelligence, green industries, and logistics. In line with national programs like Stand-up India, the policy encourages increased mentorship, closer relationships between academia, business, and entrepreneurs, and the targeted inclusion of women, Divyangjan, and young people from underrepresented groups in order to increase participation. It focuses particularly on promoting women's entrepreneurship by raising awareness of financial incentives, which empowers female entrepreneurs to create and grow sustainable businesses. Additionally, it encourages youngsters to use social entrepreneurship as a means of addressing regional issues and advancing community development.

❖ Health and Wellbeing

To ensure India's long-term productivity, economic prosperity, and social cohesion, it is essential to have a youth population that is in good health. Health encompasses more than just physical fitness; it is a state of overall wellbeing. In addition to mental toughness and emotional equilibrium, it encompasses habits that last a lifetime and make it possible for young people to fully engage in society. Currently, this potential is being threatened by factors such as poor nutrition, sedentary lifestyles, and high stress levels, which also run the danger of diluting the strength of our demographic dividend. Major initiatives, such as Eat Right India and the Fit India Movement, have been launched by the government with the goal of assisting individuals in developing healthy habits by promoting balanced eating, physical activity, and preventative care practices. NYP 2025 will extend preventative health measures, strengthen awareness on nutrition and fitness, and promote yoga, meditation, and mindfulness practices that are founded in India's civilizational legacy. This will be accomplished by building on the momentum that has been established.

❖ Sports and Recreation

By encouraging healthy physical fitness, mental stability, imaginative thinking, and community building, sports and leisure activities are vital to the all-around growth and development of young people. They encompass a wide variety of physical and traditional sports, as well as artistic and cultural expressions such as music, visual arts, movies, and an ever-expanding array of digital activities that influence the way young people learn, connect, and establish communities. The policy encourages real opportunities for youths to express themselves and participate with their communities in both online and offline settings, acknowledging the increasing power of digital media and the changing ways of life among young people. The National Sports Policy 2025 aims to enhance sports by bolstering school-based physical education programs, identifying and developing talent, and expanding opportunities for girls, rural youth, and Divyangjan through youth clubs and community-based sports programs. Cultural and digital forms of recreation have a substantial impact on young people's sense of self and their goals in life. Therefore, in order to assist young people in making responsible use of digital platforms, the policy will encourage media literacy, critical thinking, and safe online behaviour. Encouragement of youth digital and creative skill development and exploration of digital business options will help sustain the growing Creator Economy.

❖ Volunteerism and Youth Leadership

Young people have the opportunity to develop themselves and come into their own through the process of volunteering. Youth are able to explore their capabilities, develop their leadership skills, and contribute to communities that are stronger and more resilient when they participate in meaningful service. India's aim of inclusive and sustainable development is supported by these collective efforts, which strengthen social cohesiveness and support India's vision. By mainstreaming volunteer engagement through national platforms such as the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Mera Yuva Bharat, the new young Policy 2025 (NYP 2025) aims to broaden the scope of formal pathways for young participation. Young people will develop into responsible, talented, and community-oriented citizens if they are exposed to challenges that are based in the real world. In addition to this, the policy will institutionalize recognition systems in order to appreciate the efforts made by volunteers. It is the goal of the New York City Plan 2025 to identify and support one lakh young people, particularly those who come from marginalized backgrounds, to step into leadership roles. This will be

accomplished by cultivating a culture of service and leadership. These avenues will equip young people with the ability to create change at the local level and make important contributions to national concerns.

❖ Environment and Climate Action

India's long-term survival and the future of its youth depend heavily on climate resilience and environmental stewardship. This focus area includes adopting sustainable lifestyles, community conservation, green skill development, and environmental education. It is crucial to raise young people who are both climate aware and climate active as the challenges posed by climate change get worse. Through the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and Mission Life, which advocate for a global transition from mindless consumption to conscious utilization, the government has already established solid foundations. It inspires young people to adopt environmentally conscious behaviours and become pro-planet people. NYP-2025 will incorporate environmental education and climate literacy into all youth engagement platforms, building on this vision. Young people will be able to directly support national climate goals through the expansion of organized opportunities in conservation, afforestation, and awareness campaigns. By encouraging young people to engage in sustainable consumption behaviours like waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, it will also advance the ideas of a circular economy and contribute to the development of environmentally conscious communities. The policy seeks to develop a generation of green leaders dedicated to creating a resilient and sustainable India by cultivating a strong sense of duty towards Prakriti (Nature).

4. Conclusion

The National Youth Festival has been transformed into the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, which is a significant step closer to enabling the younger generation of India to take an active part in the development of the nation. Through the promotion of participation in political conversations, the encouragement of participation based on merit, and the provision of a platform for creativity and leadership, this program is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India. Young minds are given the opportunity to share their ideas and showcase their views on a national platform through activities such as the Viksit Bharat Challenge, which makes it a significant contributor to the process of creating the future of the country. The Prime Minister emphasized that the nation, and not the government alone, will be the one to decide the directions that the nation will go in terms of progress. "Every citizen of the country will have input and active participation in it," Shri Modi stated, adding out that even the most significant resolves may be fulfilled by the mantra of Sabka Prayas, which is the term for public engagement. In order to illustrate the efficacy of Sabka Prayas, he provided instances such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Digital India Campaign, the resilience displayed during the Corona pandemic, and Vocal for Local respectively. The Prime Minister stated that Sabka Prayas is the only way that the Viksit Bharat infrastructure could be constructed. In light of the fact that it is the scholars who are present at the event who are responsible for shaping the vision of the country's development and channeling the potential of the youth, Shri Modi reaffirmed the high expectations that are placed on them. The Prime Minister continued by saying, "This is a great campaign to write the future of the country," and he asked the people to submit their suggestions in order to further enhance the splendour of Viksit Bharat.

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