

Digital Transformation and Development Strategies for Viksit Bharat@2047: Challenges and Policy Insights

Dr. Nagalaxmi

Asst. Prof. of Commerce

Dr. BRR GDC (A), Jadcherla

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Abstract

Indian economy emerged as the world's fastest-growing major economies in the world. Having an Impressive expansion of 7.8% in recent GDP figures, Indian economy has solidified its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy in the April-June 2025 quarter. This growth helped in expanding services and policy reforms to increase employment generation in various sectors. Undoubtedly, Indian economy will emerge as the world's third-largest economy by 2030 with consistent long-term growth by addressing global challenges. Indian economy is capable of becoming a US\$30 trillion economy by 2047 and will be a Viksit Bharat. Digital Transformation and technological advancements have paved the ways of growth in Indian Economic, Social and Governance framework. In the era of digital transformation an attempt was made to examine the role of digital transformation in driving the India's developmental journey and to present development strategies for Viksit Bharat @2047. This paper also identifies core challenges and throws light at policy insights to strengthen Indian's digital ecosystem stepping path towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

Key words: *Digital Transformation; Development Strategies and Viksit Bharat*

1. Introduction

Currently, India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Though having been Independent in the year 1947, still India's journey is remained as Developing Country. The major reforms in policy making and implementation of innovations with entrepreneurship has paved the ways to digital transformation and development strategies to become a developed nation by 2047. The National vision of Developed Nation is popularly known as "Viksit Bharat @2047". It aims to transform India into a developed, innovative, self-reliant, globally competitive and sustainable nation. It aligns with global developmental frameworks such as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while emphasizing India's unique socio-economic realities.

India has witnessed substantial progress in several domains over the past decade. Significant growth is visible in the fields of digital usage, financial inclusion, infrastructure expansion and entrepreneurship with innovation. Digital transformation stands out as a key enabler of inclusive growth, innovation and governance efficiency. Initiatives from the Government such as Start-up India, Skill India, make in India, Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat have laid the foundation for Structural Transformation across sectors – from agriculture and education to healthcare and industry. However, the path to a developed India remains complex and challenging due to persistent issues like unemployment, lack of skills among youth, income inequality, regional disparities and inconsistent infrastructure quality. As outlined by NITI Aayog (Vision 2047), identifies economic growth, social progress, sustainability, technological innovation and Government Reform as the key strategic pillars to convert aspirations into measurable outcomes. Based on Secondary data sources this paper explores the role of digital transformation and development strategies for Viksit

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Bharat @2047 and identifies key challenges and focus at policy insights to achieve India's transformation into a developed economy.

2. Research Methodology

• Statement of the Problem

Technological advancement and wide spread usage of internet have rapidly increased during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. These conditions have expanded the scope of digital transformation in various areas. Most of the research works have highlight the India's progress in digital initiatives. Few studies have worked at present comprehensive studies related with digital transformation as an integrated national development strategy. The studies have given a scope to fill the gap of how digital transformation contributes holistically to India's long-term developmental goals. Based upon this gap an attempt is made to present digital transformation and development strategies for Viksit Bharat @2047 and to identify the key challenges and to suggest policy insights for Developed Nation.

3. Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the Role of Digital Transformation and development strategies for ViksitBharat @2047
- To identify Key Challenges that hinder effective digital development in India
- To suggest Policy Insights for accelerating India's Digital and economic Transformation

4. Methodology of the Study

The present study is a Conceptual Paper aimed to explore the role of digital transformation and development strategies for Viksit Bharat @2047. The paper is in descriptive in nature. In order to accomplish the objectives of the present study, secondary data sources are used. The secondary data sources are various scholarly articles, policy reports, research papers published in reputed journals, magazines, web sources, Google Scholar and various Government publications like Economic Survey 2024-25, NITI Aayog, Meaty and RBI reports.

5. The Role of Digital Transformation and Development Strategies for Vikasit Bharat @ 2047

Covid-19 pandemic situations have given a wide scope of technological transformation in all major domains of the economy including infrastructure, payment systems and governance. The rapid growth of digital transformation has paved ways towards developed nation i.e. Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

The role of Digital Transformation and Development Strategies for Viksit Bharat@2047 are analyzed as below:

• Digital India and Governance Transformation

The Digital India Initiative (2015) laid the foundation for e-governance, digital infrastructure and online citizen services. According to Meaty (2024), over 1.4 billion digital transactions were recorded through the UPI system, showing India's leadership in fintech inclusion. DigiLocker and eNAM have expanded access to government services, particularly in rural regions.

There were 806 million individuals using the internet in India at the start of 2025, when online penetration stood at 55.3 percent. India was home to 491 million social media user identities in January 2025, equating to 33.7 percent of the total population. (Data reportal report, 2025)

Digital transformation has made more convenient to reach out all beneficiaries even in rural areas with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes. Government initiatives like scholarships, subsidies and pensions etc. are directly transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts. (BIF Report, 2025)

- **Economic Empowerment through Digital Ecosystems**

Digital transformation has supported economic inclusion through Start-Up India, India Stack and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). It has become a global case study handling over 16.7 billion transactions in December 2024.

Equally transformative has been the creation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The world's largest biometric identity system, Aadhaar has over 1.42 billion enrollments and enables secure authentication across all government and private services. (BIF Report, 2025)

India has the third latest startup ecosystem in the world. It has about 50,000 startups in India in 2018. Nearly 8900 – 9300 of these startups are technology led startups and 1300 new tech startups were born in 2019 alone implying there are 2-3 tech startups born every day. These start-ups have contributing significantly to job creation and innovation. (startupindia.gov.in)

- **Education, Health and Social Inclusion**

Digital platforms like Diksha, Aarogya Setu and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission have increased the use of technology in social sectors. Specialist Consultations are made available especially in rural health centres through Telemedicine platforms like eSanjeevani facilitating the patients to not to travel for long distances. The Jan Dhan Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity has facilitated direct benefit transfers to hundreds of millions, drastically reducing leakages and corruptions. Undoubtedly, all these digital platforms are more than services; they are public utilities which help in to increase the transparency and lower the transaction costs. (BIF Report, 2025)

6. Key Challenges for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

Indian economy emerged as one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Digital Transformation and development strategies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals have significantly contributed to achieve the desired goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Yet many key challenges to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047 are need to be addressed as follows:

- **Digital Divide**

Digital divide remains one of the biggest challenges to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Though there is a rapid growth is seen in usage of technology, mobile utilization and internet penetration during the last five years, still many rural and remote regions are struggling with limited internet access, slow and poor connective and lack of digital literacy. These obstacles prevent millions of people from getting benefitted from e-governance services, online education and digital employment opportunities.

- **Cyber Security and Data Privacy**

With the consistent growth of internet and technological usage maintaining data privacy and getting protected from cyber frauds are key challenges for Developed Nations. The risk of cybercrimes, cyber frauds, account hacking and misuse of personal data has increased in various digital platforms like online banking, healthcare, insurance and other e-governance portals. One must be aware of digital frauds and be cautious while making transactions will help the applicant to be much safer to handle these online threats.

- **Infrastructure Inequality**

Infrastructure inequality continues to create regional disparities in spite of centenary Independence. Few regions have been equipped with complete infrastructure facilities like electricity, roads, transport facilities, communication networks etc. Though few regions were still lagging behind to build these infrastructure facilities, especially with rural areas. Lack of proper infrastructural facilities will affect access to quality healthcare, education and better employment opportunities.

7. Policy Insights for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

In order to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, India must adopt forward-looking and inclusive policy strategies that harness the full potential of digital transformation while addressing existing development challenges. Integrating technology into education, agriculture and entrepreneurship sectors can empower rural populations and reduce socio-economic disparities. Following are the few Policy Insights for Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

- **Strengthen Digital Infrastructure**

A strong and inclusive Digital Infrastructure builds as the strong foundation of India's vision to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047. With the rapid expansion of Internet usage and connectivity enhance the access to digital services very much easy and quick. However, the digital infrastructure goes beyond the physical networks. It should also include secure digital platforms for governance, e-commerce and education. A resilient digital infrastructure enhances transparency, speed up service delivery and enables citizens and businesses to take active participation in the digital economy.

- **Integrate Digital Literacy**

Integration of Digital Literacy into all aspects of education, Governance and Community Development has equally significance in the era of digital transformation. A digitally literate population forms the backbone of an inclusive and participatory democracy. True digital empowerment depends on the ability to use technology effectively and responsibility.

- **Enhance Cyber Security Governance**

Ensuring Cyber Security and Data Privacy must be at the core of India's digital policy framework. Detection and prevention of cyber threats and frauds will safeguard citizen's trust. Public aware ness campaigns and capacity building programs for Government Officials can further improve cyber resilience. Transparent governance mechanisms will reinforce accountability and trust in digital era.

- **Promote Data-driven policy-making**

India's Development Strategies must promote data-driven policy-making to improve Governance and Efficiency. Data transparency also enhances accountability and citizen trust in governance. Establishing secure and inter-operational data systems across departments will ensures consistency and informed decision-making.

8. Summary and Conclusion

Digital transformation stands as the cornerstone of India's journey toward Viksit Bharat @2047. Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in building digital infrastructure through initiatives. With the implementation of Digital initiatives like Digital India, Bharat Net, India Stack Aadhaar enabled services and UPI, digital transformation has already redefined governance, entrepreneurship and citizen engagement. By addressing the key challenges such as the digital divide, infrastructural gaps, cyber security and data privacy, it is possible to realize the full potential of a digitally empowered and economically developed India. To overcome these challenges, India needs comprehensive Policy insights and strategies that emphasize inclusivity, innovation and strong governance. Expanding digital literacy programs, strengthening data protection laws and ensuring secure digital ecosystems should be national priorities. Effective implementation of digital transformation will empower its citizens making the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision both achievable and sustainable. A digitally empowered, innovative and resilient India will serve as a global model of development – where progress is measured not only by economic growth but by the well-being and empowerment of every citizen.

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