

### GLOBAL THREAT

Rising temperatures have emerged as one of the most alarming indicators of the accelerating climate crisis. Over the past few decades, global average temperatures have increased at a pace unmatched in recorded history, driven primarily by human activities such as industrial emissions, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels. As greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere, they trap heat and create a warming effect that is now visible across continents, oceans, and seasons. The consequences of this temperature rise are far-reaching, affecting every aspect of life on Earth.

One of the most immediate impacts of rising temperatures is the increase in the frequency and intensity of heatwaves. Cities across the world are experiencing record-breaking heat, pushing public health systems to their limits. Extreme heat disproportionately affects vulnerable groups-children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and those without access to cooling facilities. As temperatures soar, cases of heatstroke, dehydration, and cardiovascular stress become more common. This growing health burden demands urgent attention, especially in densely populated regions where exposure is high and healthcare access remains limited.

In addition to health risks, agriculture faces significant threats from rising temperatures. Crops such as wheat, rice, and maize are highly sensitive to heat stress, and prolonged warm conditions can reduce yields, disrupt planting cycles, and degrade soil quality. This poses a major challenge to food security, particularly in developing nations where agriculture is a primary source of livelihood. Farmers are increasingly struggling with unpredictable weather patterns, delayed monsoons, and water scarcity-all of which are aggravated by rising temperatures. Without adaptation measures, global food systems could face severe instability in the coming decades.

Rising temperatures are not merely an environmental issue-they are a challenge to public health, food security, economic development, and global stability. The time to act is now, before the warming trend becomes irreversible. Together, humanity must embrace solutions that protect the planet and secure a livable future for generations to come.

## The Trials and Tasks Before the New NDA Government

■ PUPUJI KOUL

As this analysis reaches the public domain, Nitish Kumar will have already taken the oath of office along with his new council of ministers, marking the beginning of his unprecedented tenth term as Chief Minister of Bihar. The sweeping and emphatic mandate secured by the National Democratic Alliance in the November 2025 Assembly elections has created both an opportunity and an enormous responsibility. With the BJP emerging as the single largest party, Nitish Kumar's leadership enters a phase where governance must harmonise with the principles of coalition dharma, ensuring that political stability is maintained while managing the pressures and expectations of an assertive ally. The foremost challenge before the new government is sustaining Bihar's developmental momentum and moving decisively beyond the foundational gains in electricity, roads, and water supply. While these achievements have reshaped Bihar's physical landscape, the state's industrial profile remains significantly underdeveloped, contributing merely around 1.3 percent to India's total functional industrial units. The urgent need is to attract large-scale private investment, diversify the economic base, and reduce the state's chronic dependence on agricultural labour, migrant workers, and remittances. Industrialisation is no longer a choice but an absolute necessity if Bihar is to create stable livelihoods within its own boundaries.

The unemployment situation, particularly among the youth, remains a matter of deep concern. Despite a moderate official unemployment rate, the ground reality is dominated by underemployment and the dominance of informal work. With manufacturing contributing less than 10 percent to the Gross State Value Added, the scarcity of salaried

and skilled opportunities has pushed lakhs of young people to migrate every year. The new government must respond with urgency-revamping the recruitment mechanism, eliminating the recurring menace of paper leaks, strengthening skilling programmes, and linking them with real employment avenues. Bihar's aspiration to stem the tide of migration requires a long-term, imaginative approach rooted in industrial revival and private-sector expansion. Fiscal management poses another formidable challenge. The state continues to grapple with high debt levels and limited own-tax revenues. Much of Bihar's welfare architecture is sustained through central transfers, making financial prudence and strategic planning essential. As the government expands welfare schemes, it must simultaneously focus on boosting revenue generation, improving tax compliance, and fostering an investment climate that enlarges the economic base.

Governance and public order remain central to Nitish Kumar's political identity. His reputation as "Sushasan Babu"-the architect of good governance-was built on significant improvements in law and order during his earlier tenures. Yet, sporadic incidents of crime and opposition allegations of deteriorating policing standards have revived concerns. Restoring a strong sense of public security is critical. The administration must demonstrate zero tolerance toward corruption, reinforce institutional accountability, and ensure impartial enforcement of law. Only a visible and consistent decline in criminal activity will reinforce public confidence in the government's administrative competence. Coalition management will require deft political handling. Though the NDA enjoys a comfortable majority, the altered power equation-with the BJP now in a dominant position-

makes negotiations over portfolios and policy priorities delicate. The JD(U) must balance its leadership role with the expectations of partners like the BJP, LJP(RV), and HAM(S). Nitish Kumar must prevent contradictions among allies from escalating into disputes that could disrupt governance or legislative processes. Stable coordination and continuous dialogue will be indispensable for ensuring policy continuity and coalition harmony.

Even as the government begins its term, an immediate responsibility is the timely and smooth formation of the cabinet, a process completed with political finesse. The next phase involves fulfilling the promises made during the election campaign-especially those directed at women's welfare, including enhanced safety, improved healthcare, educational advancement, and schemes for economic empowerment. The proposed financial assistance initiatives for women entrepreneurs, if executed efficiently, have the potential to transform Bihar's socio-economic landscape. Infrastructure development must continue to be pursued with renewed vigour. Urbanisation efforts, expansion of rural connectivity, modernisation of market linkages, and strengthening digital infrastructure are all essential components of the state's long-term growth trajectory. Improving agricultural value chains-a lifeline for a majority of the population-will help increase farmers' incomes and stabilise rural livelihoods. In social sectors such as health and education, Bihar still faces significant gaps. The quality of learning outcomes requires sustained reforms, better teacher training, expanded school facilities, and stronger accountability systems. Healthcare demands upgraded infrastructure, more medical personnel, and better last-mile delivery mechanisms. Long-

term human development hinges on how effectively the government elevates these critical sectors from basic functionality to efficient and people-centric service delivery.

Another structural challenge the government must confront is Bihar's vulnerability to natural calamities, particularly the recurrent floods triggered by the Kosi and other rivers. These disasters cause large-scale displacement, crop loss, and disruptions to livelihoods. A holistic and integrated flood-management strategy-including embankment strengthening, improved drainage systems, early-warning mechanisms, and rehabilitative support-is indispensable. The success of welfare initiatives such as the Jeevika programmes, improved pension schemes, free electricity commitments, and the Chief Minister's Women Employment Scheme will depend not merely on policy intent but on the efficiency of their on-ground implementation. Eliminating procedural delays and corruption will be essential for maintaining public trust. As Bihar enters this new chapter under the JD(U)-led NDA government, hopes for economic resurgence coexist with anxieties over governance, unemployment, and coalition stability. The years ahead will test the government's capacity to translate promises into measurable progress and actual change on the ground. Nitish Kumar's tenth term is not merely another political milestone; it is a defining moment for Bihar's developmental journey. The tasks are formidable, the expectations immense, and the challenges deeply entrenched. But it is through the responsive redressal of public concerns, responsible stewardship of resources, and relentless pursuit of reform that the government can secure both its legacy and the welfare of the millions who look to it for progress and stability.

## Lord Macaulay a founder and destroyer of Indian education and values

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

Pedagogically there are many agencies which impart formal and non formal education to the child after birth, but among all, family, society and the school play a major role in educating and shaping the character of the child which go a long way in making him an ideal citizen and an asset for the country he lives in. The child gets his first lesson of love and affection, sacrifice and obedience in the company of his family which is called the cradle of the society. The society broadens his mental horizon and teaches him a sense of co operation, interdependence and collective responsibility. School being the formal agency of education ensures his multidimensional development. The curriculum of the school presents a blueprint of the school activities for the child. Where the curricular activities equip him with the knowledge the co curricular activities shape his character, inculcate the values of discipline, truth and honesty through morning assemblies games, sports and moral lessons. But to the utter dissatisfaction of the nation none of the agencies have been successful in shaping and building the character and inculcating the national values in the youth up to the desired level even after more than seventy of independence. After independence the education sector did not get the kind of attention that it deserved because there was neither any roadmap nor any curriculum available at that time.

It was only Thomas Babington Macaulay whose education policy was adapted for the citizens of free India. Macaulay stressed upon the introduction of English in the Indian schools with the aim to anglicize the Indians to serve as link between Indians and Britishers. Macaulay regarded the learned persons of Sanskrit, Arabic and other Indian languages as ignorant while the learned persons in India were consid-

ered as great fools in his opinion. It is amazing that a country like India could not evolve its own educational policy emphasizing the need for inculcating the Indian values based upon the teachings of from the epics, ancient and freedom struggle history of India. It is said that the Lord Macaulay policy which is still vogue in the country is known both as founder and destroyer of Indian education. According to the data from UGC website there are about 800 universities, 38000 colleges 11500 standard college institutions in India. But as the ill luck would have it the number the youth passing out from these institutions are exhibiting the behavior detrimental for the integrity and solidarity of the country.

In the absence of any modal national curriculum in the country after the independence many union education ministers framed the curriculum in such a way which totally divorced the Indian values and emphasized upon the propagation of the outsider and invaders culture who destroyed and mutilated Indian history, heritage and Indian values. Instead of introducing the ancient Indian history they promoted the Mughal and the Britishers and portrayed them the actual heroes of India. The political parties and their allies in the government tailored their own curriculums best suiting to their political aged, ambitions and selfish motives. Keeping their eyes on the long range political benefits the parties ruling the country introduced those text books in the schools and colleges which were biased in nature and which contained mutilated facts about the ancient history of India's freedom struggle whereby projecting and glorifying a particular political party, particular family and a particular community in the country.

The ruling parties accorded autonomy to the hidden educational institutions for minorities functioning under article 30 of

the Indian constitution and gave them free hand to function the way their clerics want and preach whatever they liked with the assurance that these schools and institutions have to stand in good stead whenever these parties needed their support. The nation has been feeling the heat of the unwanted, un expected and anti national behavior of some sections of society, youth coming out from colleges and universities, political leaders having taken oath of the constitution dozens of times, designer print and the electronic media and the so called intelligentsia of the country have been sparing no efforts in increasing and aggravating the difficulties of their own country by making the scathing attacks on all the democratic institutions of the country.

Abusing and using vulgar language against the prime minister, president and chief Justices of India, burning their effigies and beating their photos by the shoes in the public. The nation feels annoyed when the small children of three or four shout slogans against India and talks about freedom and killing the prime minister or those not acting upon their dictates. Waiving the tricolor amidst the antinational slogans, revolution in the country, man handling the police and the security force on the highways torching the houses and the public property in the broad day light, rendering moral support to the agenda of the hostile countries joining the Tukde Tukde Gang celebrating martyrdom of Afzal Guru Kasab and Burhan Wani by the students of some universities of the country, disrespecting the national symbols has become a fashion and craze for the youth irrespective of the community they belong to. The press and the paid TV Channels, instead of coming for the help of the government, add fuel to the fire of hatred and terrorism at the instance of their mentors sitting outside the country. The provoca-

tive and abusive way of the panelists comprising of the spokespersons of different political parties, religious leaders, renowned lawyers of the country look as if they are committed to collapse the system of the nation lock stock and barrel.

The time has come to take the matter of shaping the character of the nation seriously which conforms to the national aspirations and expectations. It is therefore suggested to;

1. Evolve a national curriculum and road map which can help inculcate national values among the children
2. There must be a provision of daily screening of the 10 minutes documentary films on the lives of the freedom fighters, upon the lives of the great Indian saints reformers heroes of freedom struggle, importance and respect of the national symbols in addition to the singing of national anthem.
3. The photographs of the national leaders be displayed on the corridors of the school so that the students pay tribute to them while entering or leaving their class rooms and the school complexes.
4. Like in sixties the services of the retired security personnel be utilized in the schools under National Discipline schemes NDS so that the strict adherence to the disciplinary values among the students can be assured.
5. It must be made obligatory that the front and the back pages of the textbook books and the note books have the photo graphs both on the front and the back of their books.

It is laudable that the NPE 1986 And the NPE 2020 have made headway in this direction which is likely to change and streamline the educational curriculum and the syllabus which the nation cherishes and also hope translating the dreams of our great leaders and the freedom fighters in reality.

(The writer is a social activist Basohli)

## Capturing India's \$10 Trillion Potential through Flexicap Funds

■ SANDEEP GUPTA



India's potential for long-term wealth creation through equities is beyond question. With a steadily rising per capita income-now around \$3,000-and one of the world's largest young populations, the country stands at the cusp of a sustained consumption and infrastructure boom. These structural strengths create a fertile ground for corporate earnings to multiply, potentially propelling India's equity market capitalization toward the \$10 trillion mark in the years ahead.

However, the journey toward long-term growth is seldom linear. Periodic bouts of volatility, policy shifts, or global headwinds often test investors' conviction and may even deter participation to short-term value erosion. For those who wish to harness the long-term potential of equities while navigating market fluctuations, Flexicap funds offer an effective route.

Flexicap funds invest across the entire market capitalization spectrum-large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap-based on relative valuations and market conditions. Think of a Flexicap fund manager as a national cricket team selector; choosing players depending on the game format. Just as the selection for a Test match differs from that for a T20, fund managers dynamically adjust allocations based on prevailing opportunities and risks.

During uncertain or volatile phases, the portfolio leans toward large-cap companies, as they possess resilient balance-sheets, stronger cash-flows and the ability to withstand macroeconomic shocks. Conversely, during economic upcycles, fund managers may raise exposure to mid-cap and small-cap stocks, to capture the sharper earnings momentum that accompanies expansionary phases.

Large-cap exposure is generally driven by a top-down macroeconomic approach, while mid-cap and small-cap selections rely on bottom-up stock picking. This balanced framework enables Flexicap funds to act as steady compounders over the long term-offering growth potential with moderated risk compared to pure mid-cap or small-cap strategies.

In line with this, investors who wish to invest in Flexicap funds may consider the ICICI Prudential Flexicap Fund. Given the dynamic nature of the scheme in navigating across market capitalizations, the fund has the potential to deliver a good investment experience across market cycles. In terms of returns, the fund has delivered a 19.01% CAGR over three years and a 17.32% CAGR since inception in July 2021, as on October 31, 2025.

(The writer is JK Mutual Fund Services, J&K)

## Viksit Bharat @2047-Dream To Reality

■ PURAN CHAND SHARMA

It is well said, "The idea whose time has come, no force on earth can stop it." Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the course of commencement of his innings to lead the country from the front to unleash and implement necessary reformative as well as transformative measures to make India Viksit Bharat by 2047, the year of completion of hundred years of freedom from the British Rule. It shall be, therefore interesting and inspiring to examine and understand this vital and very significant issue as to whether this scintillating dream can be realized or not. This author aims at discussing and concluding as how it can be translated into a reality by dint of strong will power, unflinching trust and determination. Let us discuss and arrive at a fair conclusion.

We keenly observe that the notion of India becoming a developed nation by 2047, the centenary of its independence, has gained prominence in political and academic circles. It implies not only high income per capita but also multidimensional development, social equity, environmental sustainability, institutional robustness, technological leadership, strong and responsible foreign policy. The dream is ambitious, despite being among the world's fastest growing economies,

India still remains a low middle income country in per capita terms. This article examines the components and ingredients of Viksit Bharat, evaluates the leadership style of Narendra Modi in this context, analyses the major challenges both internal and external, considers foreign policy including neighbours and diplomacy and finally weighs the prospects of realization of the dream.

By and Large, the vision of Viksit Bharat emerges from three broad historical phases: 1. Foundational Phase (1947-1980s): This was guided by Nehruvian planning and Ambedkar's constitutional vision, India built democratic foundation and pursued a mixed economy. 2. Reform Phase (1980): In this phase Economic liberalization integrated India with global markets, boosting IT and services. 3. Transformational Phase (2014 onwards): Modi's Leadership emphasized Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and infrastructure expansion, projecting India as an aspiring global leader. As Swami Vivekananda once said, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached" (Vivekananda, 1893). The centenary goal of Viksit Bharat reflects this spirit of unflinching national awakening.

Key Components/ Ingredients Of Viksit Bharat

Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth: India must increase not just total GDP but per capita income significantly.

Human Development: Education, Health and development Quality Education for all, reducing shadow education, addressing inequity in schooling. Strong health care systems, nutrition, reduction of disparities. Gender equality and marginalized communities must not lag behind in any key indicator.

Technological change, Innovation and Institutional Reforms

Digital Economy: BY 2047, India's financial technology, AI and innovation ecosystems could rival developed nations. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, envisioned "A developed India by 2020 is not a dream, it is a mission we can all share and achieve." (Kalam, 1998). The timeline extends to 2047, but the aspiration remains unchanged.

Human Capital And Education: The National Educational Policy 2020 highlights holistic learning, skill development, and global competitiveness. Investments in healthcare and vocational training are vital for turning India's demographic dividend into knowledge dividend.

Governance And Leadership: Modi's Governance style being decisive, reform driven and digitally enabled has redefined public service delivery. Apolitical scientist

Granville Austin (1966) observed, India's strength lies in its institutions, not just leaders. Therefore, Institutional reforms ensuring transparency, accountability and decentralization will be essential.

Social Cohesion And Communal Harmony: Mahatma Gandhi emphasized in 1931, "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Therefore, India must strengthen pluralism, gender equity and social justice. Women's empowerment and caste equity would be central to a socially cohesive Viksit Bharat. Technological Innovation and Green Growth: India's achievements in space (Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan) and digital innovation show potential for leadership.

By 2047 AI, Biotechnology, renewal energy, and sustainable cities must shape India's development model.

Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: India's foreign policy has evolved from Nehru's non-alignment to Modi's Multi-alignment world. External Affairs Minister S Jaishanker has quoted, "India is rising in a multipolar world, where it must engage all but align with none rigidly". A Developed India must balance strategic autonomy with global leadership, particularly in South Asia, Indo Pacific and Climate Diplomacy.

Challenges On The Road Ahead  
Population Pressure: Whilst briskly moving towards attaining the status of Viksit Bharat and Vishavaguru, handling our population pressure in the given circumstances is the towering challenge, though stabilizing, the vast numbers demand sustained job creation and resource management.

Climate Change: Balancing Growth with carbon neutrality is certainly a monumental task and shall have to be carefully and precisely managed.

Inequality: Regional Imbalances and digital divides need to be reduced. Geopolitical Tensions: Managing hostile neighbours, border disputes and global uncertainties.

Political Polarization: In Democracies, Political Polarization is natural phenomena but Democratic vibrancy must not be undermined by divisive politics.

Role Of Leadership And Citizens  
Leadership and citizens would play a pivotal role in our arduous journey towards being a Viksit Bharat. We are fortunate enough that at this twilight hour, our Leadership is quite visionary, decisive and inclusive, fostering between state and citizen. Citizens must transform from being passive beneficiaries to active participants in nation-building. Gandhi ji's principle of "India

lives in its villages" must be harmonized with modern urban growth.

Conclusion  
The dream of Viksit Bharat @2047 is neither a utopian nor unattainable idea but a logical progression if India harnesses its demographic advantage, cultural ethos, technological capabilities and democratic strength. As Prime minister, Narendra Modi often emphasizes, India is on the cusp of a "Amrit Kaal"-a golden period of opportunity and time to fulfill the dreams of freedom fighters, to create an India that is self-reliant and developed. (Independence Day Address, 2022). The challenge lies in converting this aspiration into a concrete roadmap where growth and equity walk hand in hand. Yet the transition from vision to reality requires not only Government initiatives but also the dedication of every Indian. By uniting economic growth with social justice, tradition with modernity, and nationalism with global responsibility, India can indeed transform the dream of Viksit Bharat into a radiant reality by 2047.

Rabindera Nath Tagore's immortal lines-"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high", remain the philosophical anchor of this vision.

(The author is President, Veda Mandir)