



# **DAILY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS**

**TOPIC**

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**GIVING WINGS TO INDIA'S  
YOUTH: A VISION FOR VIKSIT  
BHARAT**

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## GIVING WINGS TO INDIA'S YOUTH: A VISION FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

### Context

- India possesses a demographic dividend, with over 65% of its population under the age of 35. This latent potential needs to be harnessed and transformed into tangible prosperity.

### Role of India's Youth: From Shram Shakti to Viksit Bharat

- Economic Transformation in the Last Decade:** India has cemented its place in the global economic order, rising from the **world's 10th largest economy in 2014 to the 4th largest today**.
  - At the core of this progress lies its **Shram Shakti (Labour Power)**, driving growth through resilience and productivity.
- Job Creation and Formalisation:** According to **RBI-KLEMS** (K: Capital, L: Labour, E: Energy, M: Materials and S: Services), while only about **2.9 crore jobs were created between 2004–2014**, the following decade saw the creation of **over 17 crore jobs**.
  - It has been accompanied by a **sharp rise in formalisation**, as reflected in EPFO data, marking a structural shift in India's labour market.
- Social Security Revolution:** In 2015, just 19% of Indians were under at least one social protection scheme.
  - By 2025, this figure has risen to **64.3% — covering 94 crore beneficiaries**.
  - With this, India now hosts the **second-largest social security system in the world**, a feat acknowledged by the **International Labour Organization** as one of the fastest expansions globally.
- Demographic Dividend:** India stands at a demographic inflection point, with **65% of its population under 35**.
  - India's **Yuva Shakti (youth power)** provides a unique advantage, unlike ageing economies in the West.

### Key Concerns & Challenges Facing India's Youth

- Education & Skill Gaps:**
  - Quality vs. Quantity:** While enrollment rates have improved, many institutions struggle with outdated curricula and poor infrastructure.
  - Skill Mismatch:** A large number of graduates lack industry-relevant skills, leading to underemployment.
  - Digital Divide:** Unequal access to technology hinders learning, especially in rural and marginalized communities.
- Employment & Economic Participation:**
  - Unemployment:** Youth unemployment remains high, especially among educated urban populations.
  - Informal Sector Dominance:** Many young workers are absorbed into low-paying, insecure jobs without benefits.
  - Job Market Absorption:** The economy struggles to create enough formal jobs to match the growing youth population.
- Mental Health & Well-being:**
  - Stress & Anxiety:** Academic pressure, job insecurity, and social expectations contribute to rising mental health issues.
  - Limited Support Systems:** Mental health services are scarce and stigmatized, especially in rural areas.
- Civic Engagement & Leadership:**
  - Political Apathy:** Despite being a large voting bloc, youth participation in governance and policy-making is limited.
  - Lack of Platforms:** Few structured avenues exist for young people to express their views or influence decisions.
- Health & Nutrition:**
  - Lifestyle Diseases:** Sedentary habits and poor diets are leading to early onset of non-communicable diseases.
  - Substance Abuse:** Rising addiction rates among youth are a growing concern, especially in urban centers.

- **Social Inequality & Marginalization:**

- ♦ **Gender Disparities:** Young women face barriers in education, employment, and safety.
- ♦ **Caste & Regional Inequities:** Youth from marginalized communities often lack access to opportunities and resources.

### Related Government Efforts & Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY):** It was launched in the **Union Budget 2024–25**. It aims to create **3.5 crore jobs over two years**, with an unprecedented **₹1 lakh crore outlay**.
  - ♦ The PMVBRY integrates lessons from **Make in India, the National Manufacturing Mission, and Production-Linked Incentives**, while adapting to the **changing global job landscape** shaped by automation and supply-chain shifts.
    - It reflects a **shared responsibility of workers and employers** in nation-building.
  - ♦ It ensures transparency and accelerates formalisation, by linking benefits to **Direct Benefit Transfer** and **social security enrolment**.
    - Special emphasis on the **manufacturing sector** aligns with national priorities of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)** and **global manufacturing leadership**.
  - ♦ **Dual Focus: Workers and Employers:** It **reduces entry barriers for workers** while **mitigating hiring risks for businesses**, fostering competitiveness alongside employability.
    - **Part A:** Direct incentives to first-time employees (up to ₹15,000 in two installments).
    - **Part B:** Support for employers (up to ₹3,000 per new hire per month).

### Other Initiatives & Efforts

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** It offers industry-relevant training to youth to enhance employability and livelihood opportunities.
  - ♦ It includes certification and placement support across sectors like IT, manufacturing, and healthcare.
- **National Youth Corps (NYC):** It builds a cadre of disciplined and motivated youth volunteers to engage in nation-building activities.
  - ♦ Volunteers support community development, awareness campaigns, and disaster response efforts.
- **Adolescence Education Programme:** It aims to equip young people with age-appropriate, culturally relevant knowledge.
  - ♦ It focuses on life skills, health awareness, and responsible decision-making.
  - ♦ It is delivered through schools and youth organizations to promote holistic development.
- **Assistance to National Sports Federations:** It supports youth athletes through funding, infrastructure, and training.
  - ♦ It encourages participation in national and international competitions.
  - ♦ It promotes sports as a career and lifestyle among young Indians.
- **Padhna Likhna Abhiyan:** A literacy campaign involving youth volunteers from NCC, NSS, and NYKS.
  - ♦ Targets adult literacy and basic education in underserved communities.
  - ♦ Promotes youth-led social change through education.

### Way Forward: Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

- Employment is not just an economic indicator — it is the **essence of nation-building**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY)** is a **national commitment to dignity in work and equality of opportunity**.
  - ♦ It lays the foundation for **Viksit Bharat by 2047**, by enabling every youth to access meaningful employment.

Source: TH

### Daily Mains Practice Question

- Q. Critically examine the role of India's youth in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Evaluate the role of government initiatives, youth empowerment strategies, and socio-economic challenges in shaping India's future.