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Research Article

Viksit Bharat @2047: Assessing India's Approaches and Obstacles in International Security

Dr. Raj Singh

Faculty, Government PS Sairgali, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Corresponding Author: * Dr. Raj Singh

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Abstract

As India approaches its centenary of independence, the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" advocates for a transition from reactive defence to proactive global security leadership. This paper explores the strategic framework necessary to elevate India from a regional player to a global "Net Security Provider" in an increasingly volatile, multipolar landscape. Central to this transformation is the "Defence Forces Vision 2047", which incorporates economic independence within a multidomain military structure. The strategy is founded on three primary pillars: Technological Independence through self-sufficiency in advanced technology and space, and an Economic security connection fuelled by an anticipated \$30 trillion GDP. The research emphasises emerging domains, including cyber, space, and cognitive warfare, as well as other deterrence strategies, such as "Operation Sindoor". Nevertheless, it faces significant challenges, including the Sino-Indian "two-front" threat, maritime "grey zone" issues, and other nontraditional factors such as climate-induced instability. This paper argues that achieving the security goals of "Viksit Bharat 2047" necessitates a holistic approach. This approach requires the seamless integration of diplomacy, industrial innovation, and military modernisation to shape global outcomes and steer the Global South.

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INTRODUCTION

Viksit Bharat 2047 is the vehicle for a strategy focused on India's global ambitions in security, technology, and international cooperation. In this context, India's stance towards global security is evolving to reflect India's increasing international participation in outer space, which offers many opportunities but also poses intricate legal challenges. These include the assertion of national sovereignty in outer space; the management of space debris; the regulation and licensing of satellite launches; the protection of intellectual property rights; liability for damages arising from space activities; and adherence to international treaties and agreements governing space operations. National sovereignty in outer space is a foundational principle of India's governance strategy, which aims to protect its space assets even when it must harmonise domestic and international laws. The expansion of satellite and space programmes has heightened the importance of efficient space debris management, compelling India to manage debris generated by its own activities and comply with international debris-mitigation standards. The regulatory environment for satellite launches and space activities also requires harmonisation with national laws and international obligations, including the registration of space objects and the coordination of frequency use.

To protect these innovations and the country's cultural heritage through intellectual property rights, the state's national interests, the industry's commercial requirements, and international responsibilities must be weighed. Liability for damage caused by an object in space can also add another dimension to the mix, particularly if something goes wrong during an accident or crash, or if it fails to operate as intended. The Indian space environment, when it aims to realise its national space vision and in a broader sense towards global security, compliance with international norms, including the Outer Space Treaty, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention, will remain central to national interest to which India is party, such as to its own. With the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) as its prototype, India has proven to be an impressive contributor to expanding its deep-space exploration capabilities and to transforming itself into a credible member of the global space community. These achievements, however, are accompanied by legal and regulatory challenges that need to be addressed if India's ambitions are to be maximised under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. This method collects all findings from academic works and literature reviews on India's space experiences and the legal challenges confronting national space organisations.

History and Security Policies of India Between 2014 and 2026

The number of cybercrime incidents in India exploded: from 9,622 in 2014 to over 77,000 by 2026, including online

assaults. The recent surge is closely linked to rapid technological development and digitalisation in the nation, which has made the country an attractive target for new cyber adversaries. Emerging technologies such as cloud computing and the Internet of Things (IoT) have introduced new vulnerabilities, making some of the most sensitive sectors — particularly finance, health and education — prime targets for online attackers. The new realities demand a comprehensive revision of an evolved Indian security policy, shifting it towards a vision that integrates digital and cyber security with physical security as part of the national security strategy, rather than traditional security perspectives. This led to several policy and architectural reform initiatives implemented by the Indian government to shield itself from the increasing threat scenario. The 2020 launch of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is a necessary step in the right direction, as it integrates and centralises responses to cybercrime incidents and strengthens law enforcement. In a similar vein, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal was established to facilitate the reporting of cybercrime, particularly against females and children, and to increase the frequency of such reports. Such initiatives are, therefore, contributing to a wider drive to incorporate digital security into India's national security, recognising cyber threats as a major part of the country's security agenda, which is very important.

The Economic-Security Nexus: The Basis for National Power

Development also becomes about national resilience built on a developed-nation position, which is an essential part of doing that. Typically, developed-nation status is associated with relatively high-quality economic indicators, such as a high mean per capita income and a substantial Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Still, the Viksit Bharat Vision seeks to broaden these two parameters to a high Human Development Index (HDI) and advanced technological infrastructure. These indicators are based on the idea of a sustainable economy and technological capacity in the country, which the nation-state seeks to foster alongside strong human settlements and the government's efforts to develop industrial activities. The link between economic prosperity and national security is inextricable; a \$30 trillion economy can only thrive if it has secure trade routes, resilient energy supplies, and an environment to safeguard its digital ecosystem.

Macroeconomic Pathways and Military Strategies

The economic map for 2047 projects a quantum leap in growth, aiming for a per capita income of \$15,000 to \$18,000. The fiscal structure of defence is changing structurally to facilitate this growth. Estimates for 2047 show a substantial increase in the share of GDP dedicated to defence to keep hardware up to date with modern technology.

Table.1: Economic and Defence Parameters and Comparison

Economic and Defence Parameters	2025-26	2047 (Projected)
National GDP	~\$3.7 trillion	\$30 - \$40 Trillion
Per Capita Income	~\$2,600	\$15,000 - \$20,000
Defence Budget (INR)	6.8 Lakh Crores	31.7 Lakh Crores
Defence Spending as % of GDP	2%	4% - 5%
Research & Development (R&D) Spend	4%	8% - 10%
Capital Expenditure in the Defence Budget	27%	40%
Global Rank by Defence Expenditure	4th	3rd

Source: Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Such a transformation — the kind towards a research-intensive defence sector. As India transitions from the globe's fifth-largest to third-largest economy by 2030, the capacity to defend its assets against both conventional and unconventional adversaries emerge as the dominant policy factor. The growth in research and development (R&D) spending from 4% to 10% reflects progress towards "Atmanirbharta" (self-reliance), whereby the technologies that drive India's security are both homegrown and immune to vulnerabilities arising from foreign supply chains. The Viksit Bharat vision is anchored upon four fundamental pillars: people with low incomes (Garib), women (Mahila), farmers (Kisan) and youth (Yuva). This demographic focus is necessary not only socially but also strategically, as a younger population is the primary source of energy and talent for both the economy and the modernising military. The demographic makeup of India is a strong asset, but it faces challenges to its foundational learning outcomes and skilling, as well as to the technical skills needed for 21st-century warfare. Inclusive development assures that growth is fair. It reduces internal fault lines that adversaries can exploit through cognitive or psychological operations.

The 2047 Military Roadmap: Staged Transformation and Jointness

The Ministry of Defence published the 'Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military' on March 10, 2026. The strategic reforms and capability enhancements essential to turn the Indian military into an integrated, multi-domain force are outlined in this document (Anand, 2025). There should be no more regional conflicts because, as stated in the roadmap, future conflicts will not be confined to traditional theatres but will unfold simultaneously across the land, sea, air, space, and cyber domains. Phases in realising the vision of 2047: The roadmap approaches the process in three phases, in a calibrated manner, to support the transformation and keep pace institutionally.

- **Era of Transition (2026–2030):** Next, organisational restructuring is underway to encourage "jointness" among the three services. This time is devoted to establishing positive control over borders, including the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Line of Control (LoC), and to neutralising local confrontations and terrorism.
- **Era of Consolidation (2030–2040):** the decade was described as the "Tech Leap." The goal is to become a digital hegemon by fully deploying AI surveillance, drone swarms, and the "Sudarshan Chakra" air defence system.

- **Era of Excellence (2040-2047):** The last stage is the Indian military's development into a global, world-class force in a niche and leading position, by developing a unique arsenal of technologies across a wide range of niches and exercising freedom of operation across all strategic domains.

This incremental strategy would help transform the military from an old-school, legacy-laden force into a robust global military powerhouse, achieving technological parity with adversaries so that old weaponry does not become obsolete.

Structural Reforms and Tri-Service Synergy

At the forefront of the 2047 vision is the focus on increased jointness and synergy between the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This means more coherence in planning, operations, and capability development. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has been instrumental in achieving the vision, with approximately 90% of theatreisation planning (the creation of integrated theatre commands) reported as complete by early 2026. It also envisions a harmonised "Defence Forces Act" that governs the conduct, discipline, and service conditions of personnel of all three services, supplanting fragmented service-specific laws. The training framework is being updated to align with technology-driven warfare, raising the educational threshold for soldiers to prepare them to handle future complex systems.

Space, Cyber and Cognitive Warfare: Emerging Domains

Conflict is migrating from network-centric to intelligence-centric, with the pace of information processing and the ability to manipulate the electromagnetic spectrum being significant. The 2047 vision understands that threats have been broadened from conventional combat to grey-zone coercion and digital sabotage. Specialised Technical Forces. To combat this shift, the government wants to establish four special tri-service entities to handle high-tech warfare.

Cyber Command: This command is responsible for consolidating India's offensive and defensive cyber capabilities. In times when critical infrastructure is being digitised, the role of deterrent and response measures against cyber-attacks is critical for national survival.

Space Command: Concentrated on satellite operations and space-based surveillance, this command is responsible for providing the assets that furnish navigation, communication and real-time intelligence to the fighting forces with resilience.

Data Force: Data is the new oil in the battlefield, and a Data Force focuses on managing and analysing large volumes of information using AI and advanced data analytics, enabling machine-speed decision-making.

Cognitive Warfare Action Force

Realising that perception management and psychological operations are paramount in battle and peace, these forces work to counter disinformation and to build the strategic narrative in wartime and beyond. They show how technology is evolving toward "Intelligence-Centric Warfare." Networked sensors and Artificial Intelligence enable the neutralisation of threats before they materialise within the physical domain. Mission Sudarshan Chakra, Military Air Defence, is safeguarding crucial national infrastructure against multi-domain threats. Such as missile swarms and drone strikes, are part of "Mission Sudarshan Chakra". This air and ballistic missile defence (BMD) system is planned to be fully operational by 2030. It incorporates sensor and interceptor systems to form a layered shield for economic centres and strategic positions. The plan also calls for establishing "surge" capacities for prolonged, high-intensity

attritive operations, drawing lessons derived from previous conflicts globally, in which munitions stocks were quickly depleted.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Self-Reliance and Strategic Autonomy

Self-reliance in defence is no longer just an economic thing; it is an essential part of national security and strategic autonomy. India's role as one of the world's largest importers of defence equipment created vulnerabilities that spanned decades, including supply chain disruptions and "diplomatic arm-twisting" by foreign powers during crises. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) campaign aims to make India a global defence manufacturing hub by 2047.

There have even now been a series of "Positive Indigenisation Lists" from the Ministry of Defence, which require hundreds of products – everything from sophisticated weapons such as artillery guns and missiles to niche parts – to be ordered from domestic producers. So, it has provided a guaranteed market for the Indian defence industry, resulting in a considerable increase in production value and exports.

Table 2: Defence Sector Impact between 2012 and 2025

Defense Sector Impact	(2013). -14 / 2014-15	2024-25
Defence Production Value	INR 46,429 Crore	INR 1.54 Lakh Crore
Defense Export Value	INR 686 Crore	INR 21,083 Crore
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Units	2 Units	300+ Units
Electronics Production Value	\$31 Billion	\$133 Billion

Source: PRS Legislative Research, Institute for Policy Research Studies, New Delhi, www.prsindia.org.

The growing penetration in the private sector characterises this transition. Organisations like Tata, L&T and Mahindra, and a flourishing ecosystem in which several MSMEs and start-ups have coalesced, are now creating next-level platforms such as armoured vehicles and electronic warfare suites. To enable this, the government established two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and set up concentrated networks of manufacturing, testing and R&D (M. K. Biswal M, 2023).

Innovation and the ADITI Scheme

For critical, strategic, and industry technologies, the government's development plan is ADITI in 2024 - Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX. Targeted at 30 deep-tech companies – from satellite communications to autonomous weapons to quantum technologies – the scheme is funded with INR 750 crore upfront. ADITI is a sub-scheme of iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) and provides up to INR 25 crore per project to start-ups and MSMEs. This project was conceived to align the needs of the modern armed forces with those of the domestic innovation ecosystem and ensure that India can continue to thrive in the "Third Revolution" era of the military system.

Maritime Strategy: Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is crucial for India's economic and strategic future. The waters, which also host essential sea lanes of communication (SLOCs) for global energy supplies, transport around 95% of India's trade by volume and 68% by value (Swaraj Dash, 2025). India has increasingly defined its place as the "net security provider" in this region of the world, driven by the need to counterbalance China's growing importance and non-traditional threats such as piracy and terrorism; hence, it has deemed it a national security burden—indigenisation and capacity building at the Naval level. The Indian Navy Vision 2047 hopes to render the force into a "Builder's Navy" focused on local design and construction. India is one of only a few countries building a domestically based aircraft carrier, and more than 50 large ships and submarines are being built in Indian shipyards by 2026 (Rao, 2026). The Indian Naval Indigenisation Plan (INIP) 2015–2030 has contributed significantly to this, emphasising indigenisation among "Float, Move & Fight" arms classes. This approach preserves operational independence and supply chain security while securing forward deployment in a challenging maritime environment. The commissioning of INS Jatayu at the strategic Minicoy Islands is a major step towards enhancing India's role in the Arabian Sea and monitoring traffic through the Malacca Dilemma chokepoint.

Blue Economy and Strategic Partnerships

The maritime vision for 2047 is more holistic, not just about securing the coast and preventing incursions, but about the overall development of the Blue Economy. India wishes to profit from its 2 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) through deep-sea fisheries, marine construction, and green shipbuilding (Swaraj Dash, 2025). At the policy level in regional relations, India also strategically promotes a free and open Indo-Pacific through frameworks such as the Quad (India, the US, Japan, and Australia) (M. K. Biswal 2023). Collaboration at a regional level is furthered by programmes such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the 2025 MAHASAGAR framework (Rehman et. al., 2025), which aims to encourage concerted action and compatibility with littoral states, including Mauritius and Seychelles, and address China's "string of pearls" approach.

Continental Security: Managing the LAC and LoC

Moreover, if the maritime world is a theatre of aspiration, the continental frontlines remain sites of immediate threat. India's unique "two-front" security conundrum stems from the joint strategic-military partnership between Beijing and Islamabad.

The Sino-Indian Border or LAC

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains a critical factor in India's security posture. The India-China relationship has been

one of 'stability without trust' since the 2020 skirmishes (Nandy & Das, 2025). China's plan to construct hardened infrastructure and permanent habitats along the border has forced India to respond with forward deployments and an expanded surveillance posture.

October 2024: An agreement was reached on patrolling patterns in the LAC, leading to a withdrawal from several conflict areas. However, the long-term challenge for India is one of "denial" — that any attempt by China to change the status quo entails costs that Beijing cannot bear or overlook. This requires a timely, aggressive embrace of disruptive technologies such as AI-enabled autonomous platforms (including advanced drones) and hypersonic delivery systems, which allow you to stay ahead of the curve (Sudarshan, 2025).

Pakistan and the 2025 Pahalgam Emergency

The LoC with Pakistan is still a source of instability, mainly thanks to cross-border terrorism. The 2025 attack on Pahalgam was a turning point for India in its response to these threats. On 22 April 2025, five militants from The Resistant Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba, killed 26 people, including Indian and Nepalese nationals, during an excursion in Kashmir, following the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) authorised Operation Sindoor, an operational military campaign initiated on 6 May 2025 for the destruction of the infrastructure sustaining cross-border terrorism (Swaraj Dash, 2025).

Table 3: Operation Sindoor: Targets, Impacts, Casualties and Details

Operation Sindoor: Targets and Impacts	Details
Trigger Event	April 22, 2025, Pahalgam Attack (26 Civilians Killed)
Operational Objective	Destroy Terror Infrastructure and Punish Perpetrators
Key Terrorist Targets	Bhawalpur and Muridke Training Camps
Military Targets	11 Pakistan Air Bases (Sargodha, Bholari, Skardu, etc.)
Casualties	Over 100 Terrorists Killed
Infrastructure Damage	20% of Pakistan's Air Force Infrastructure Destroyed
Diplomacy	US-brokered Ceasefire on May 10, 2025

Source: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. (2025, May 14). Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force [Press release]. Press Information Bureau, Government of India.

Operation Sindoor suggested that India had made a shift towards "assertive deterrence," suggesting that the bar for military retaliation was lowered as a result of high-casualty terrorist incidents. Most of the world community, notably the UK, Israel and Russia, affirmed India's right to self-defence, but called for regional stability (Singh, A. V., & Sadhanandan, 2025).

Diplomacy and Multi-alignment: The Strategy of Emerging Powers

India's foreign policy has moved beyond negotiating for a multipolar world and instead has embraced an active network of alliances to drive its 2047 objectives. This "multi-alignment" strategy enables India to be present at all major poles of power—the US, the EU, Russia, and China—while being at the cutting edge of advancing the Global South agenda.

The Russia-India-West Triangle

A balanced relationship with Russia is also essential for India's strategic autonomy. India has deepened its defence and energy relations with Russia amid Western pressure to isolate Moscow. During President Vladimir Putin's 2025 visit to New Delhi, both countries reiterated their "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" and their objective of reaching a \$100 billion bilateral trade goal by 2030 (Gandhi, 2025). Important outcomes of this partnership include the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) deal, which will give the Indian Navy access to Arctic ports, and the prospect of producing the Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter in India. This "India-first" realism means that India continues its position as a bridge between sanctioned powers and Western partners, becoming its own pole in a fragmented world order.

Global South Leadership and Vishwa Mitra

India's aspiration to become a global leader of the Global South is central to its vision for 2047. By presenting itself as a "World

Friend" (friend of the world), India amplifies the collective voice of developing nations on global platforms such as the G20, BRICS, and the SCO (Gandhi, 2025).

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): India introduces its "India Stack" (UPI, Aadhaar) as a "third way" for digital governance, assisting developing nations in achieving financial inclusion without depending on the infrastructure-led models of major powers.
- Health and Energy Cooperation: "Vaccine Friendship" and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) demonstrate India's commitment to providing global public goods.
- Institutional Reform: India continues to advocate for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, portraying this not merely as a national ambition but as a crucial step to represent the 85% of the world's population living in the Global South.

Non-Traditional Security: Climate and Demographics

The 2047 security landscape is also defined by non-traditional threats that will destabilise the region without a shot being fired. However, climate change and demographic forces are the most urgent issues among these—climate-Induced Instability. South Asia is among the most vulnerable regions in the world to climate change (Vajiram et al., 2023). The rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers that underlie the big river systems of not only India but also Pakistan threatens water security and agricultural stability.

Climate Migration: It is projected that by 2050, more than 50 million people in South Asia could be displaced by flooding and sea-level rise, prompting them to seek refuge internally or across borders (Singh, A. V., & Sadhanandan, 2025). Moreover, this mass movement can lead to competition for resources and social unrest in cities.

Water Security: The Indus Water Treaty has become a source of strategic tension. India's threat to interdict or direct river flows in response to terrorism, as with the 2025 Pahalgam crisis, shows how environmental resources are becoming weaponised.

Militarisation of Disaster Response: Increasingly, the militaries of India and Pakistan are being called upon to respond to climate disasters. Though impactful, such a trend threatens to securitise climate policy and divert attention from civilian solutions and regional cooperation.

Demographic Risks and the Skilling Gap

India's 'vibrant demography' is one of the pivotal pillars of its 2047 vision, but the demographic dividend is entirely dependent on building human capital. However, gaps in skilling and basic learning remain a challenge (Gangaraj & Biddappa, 2025). Programs such as the Skill India Mission are needed to ensure that the youth can handle the technological complexities of the Data Force and Cyber Command. Failure to integrate young people into the new economy would produce social

unrest—an easy opportunity for opponents to use force and implant their principles and propaganda in the minds of young people.

Evaluating Challenges and Implementation

"Defence Forces Vision 2047" is an ambitious meta-strategy that faces several challenges to its success.

Political and Institutional Ownership

Broad-based reform programmes such as theatreisation and the drafting of a common Defence Forces Act require sustained political will and institutional ownership. Historically, institutional inertia and fragmented planning systems have prevented coordinated implementation across ministries.

Speed and Scale of Indigenisation

The success of Vision 2047 depends on whether the domestic defence industrial base can provide the necessary capabilities at the required pace and scale. There have been significant achievements in shipbuilding and electronics, but delays in programs such as the Tejas Mk1A reflect the dangers of capability gaps. The transition period up to 2030 is considered the 'decisive window' for these reforms.

Training and Human Resources

The shift towards high-tech warfare requires a technology-savvy force. There is an ongoing debate about whether the Agnipath scheme, with its short-term service plan, can provide sufficient expertise for specialised technical units such as the Drone Force or the Space Command. Modernising training curricula will be crucial for dealing with these complex systems, as will drawing on veterans.

Future Prospects and Recommendations for Global Security Leadership

A pivot from reactive to proactive, "Net Security Provider" role to attain global security leadership by 2047. Moreover, the transition is guided by the Defence Forces Vision 2047, which aims to synchronise military power with economic and diplomatic influence. The Viksit Bharat vision for India to shift from a regional power to a global security leader by 2047, to a global security stewardship, not just a defensive deterrence. This shift was summarised in the recently released "Defence Forces Vision 2047," a meta-strategy connecting national security to economic and industrial dominance (Gangaraj & Biddappa, 2025).

Strengthening Multilateral Security Architectures in the Indo-Pacific

- The future of India's global security leadership will be highly contingent on its ability to harness and define multilateral security architectures, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), which is meant to encompass India, the United States, Japan, and Australia, is a unique alignment that is not a security alliance in its own right but provides a useful basis for cooperation on common security interests. This

framework enables countries to jointly manage power transfers and promote a rules-based system of international law without infringing upon the sovereignty of partner countries. The post-COVID-19 world order has highlighted the need for greater synergy between national visions, such as India's Indo-Pacific strategy and the broader QUAD agenda. This will also be crucial in addressing collective security threats, not least in response to assertive actions by China, and complementing alternative supply chains and multilateral institutional bases that further the national interests of all member states.

- India's leadership is further bolstered by its status as the region's major economy and by its direct security interests regarding China. By building robust linkages with littoral nations and spearheading projects through multilateral forums such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), India can advance broader cooperation initiatives. Such agendas should include conventional maritime security, non-traditional security threats, geographic research, and environmental protection. By enhancing India's leadership capacity and contributing to the stability and prosperity of the wider Indo-Pacific region, such initiatives would enhance India.

Maritime Domain Awareness and Technological Integration

- One very important recommendation for India in pursuit of future global security leadership is to enhance and integrate maritime domain awareness (MDA) capabilities into an ecosystem. The contested sea lines of communication and the prevalence of non-traditional challenges in the Indo-Pacific require a complete infrastructure for surveillance and intelligence gathering. Fusion centres in strategic locations such as India, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu should be established and strengthened to ensure that intelligence agencies serving as the "eyes and ears" of the QUAD countries have similar capabilities (Raju & Srinivasan, 2025). Such an integrated approach would enable real-time information sharing and joint responses to new threats, thus improving collective security.
- Moreover, leveraging improvements in the space and cyber security domains is fundamental to efficient intelligence compilation and operational synchronisation. When these technological domains are integrated into a broader security architecture, India and its allies might be equipped to address both classical and alternative threats. This approach is consistent with the need for an integrated output across strategic areas such as Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Islands, thereby strengthening the robustness and flexibility of regional security systems.

Navigating Strategic Partnerships and Regional Balances

- The potential of India as a global security leader will hinge on its ability to navigate complex strategic partnerships and regional balances. The existence of competing security arrangements, such as QUAD and AUKUS, should also be seen as complementary rather than competitive. Each alliance also provides unique yet overlapping goals for the other, which, together, help reshape the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. India's engagement with these paradigms, as well as its bilateral and multilateral collaboration with ASEAN members and Pacific partners, makes it a major actor in the regional security framework.
- However, the changing geopolitical dynamics come with challenges, including balancing competing national interests and managing foreign perceptions, notably from China, which considers the QUAD a relic of an antiquated "Cold War mentality." The extent to which India can navigate these perceptions successfully while promoting its security interests and regional partnerships is also likely to be extremely important for maintaining a leadership position in the region. Moreover, global crises such as the conflict in Ukraine could affect the strategic orientation and resource allocation of key partners, including the United States, highlighting the critical role of an independent and proactive India in regional leadership.

CONCLUSION

The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision is a paradigm shift in India's global positioning. By 2047, India plans to become a \$30 trillion economy, underpinned by a globally respected, self-reliant armed force and a diplomatic stance. Integrating national security with economic sovereignty is the defining characteristic of this transformation. The transition from a reactive defence model to an "all-domain" readiness model is already underway. The creation of specialised commands for space, cyber, and data, the assertive deterrence demonstrated in Operation Sindoor, and the leadership of the Global South are indications of a nation in purposeful stride. However, the way forward is murky: from the spectre of a two-front conflict, to destabilising conditions caused by climate change, to the demand for sweeping institutional reforms. Moreover, the "Era of Transition" is to come to an end in 2030. If India can successfully formalise jointness, attain digital supremacy in its military, and shore up its home defence ecosystem in this decade, it will be on the path toward the "Era of Excellence" in 2047. At the end of the day, security of Viksit Bharat derives from a "whole-of-nation" response that draws on the energy of its youth, the innovation of its industry, and the steely determination of its strategic leadership to safeguard its citizens and its borders in the 21st century.

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About the Author



Dr. Raj Singh is a faculty member at Government Primary School, Sairgali, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir. His academic interests include education, teaching methodologies, and school-level learning. He is committed to fostering an effective and inclusive learning environment and contributing to the academic development of students through innovative and learner-centred educational practices.