

Name: Aarush Dhamija
Class:11
Institution: Bal Vikas Progressive School
Contact : 9354910009

The Reality of Viksit Bharat

The Constitution of India begins with a sentence that quietly places the burden of the nation exactly where it belongs. We the people of India. Not the government. Not Parliament. Not the Prime Minister. Not any political party. The people. And if that is how the republic begins then that is also where the idea of Viksit Bharat must begin. Not in policy documents or target years but in how we understand our responsibility toward this country.

A few months ago during a school orientation a simple question was asked. How many of you plan to stay in India after graduation? Barely twenty hands went up. The rest had already planned their exits before finishing Class 12. And this is usually where people jump to conclusions. Privileged children. Lack of patriotism. But that response avoids the harder truth. These students were not rejecting India emotionally. They were responding rationally to a system that has taught them effort does not guarantee dignity.

When a seventeen year old spends two years preparing for a national exam, competes with over eleven lakh students and is ranked out of the system, society does not question the design of the exam. It questions the worth of the student. We have built an education system that filters out ninety eight percent of its participants and then acts surprised when those same students look elsewhere for opportunity. This is not brain drain. This is talent rejection. And no nation develops by systematically rejecting its own human capital.

We often say Viksit Bharat means better education, better jobs, better infrastructure. Those are necessary but they are not sufficient. Development is not just material. It is ideological. And right now we are facing an ideological vacuum.

We have normalised a consumer relationship with the nation. What does India give me. What is my return on investment? If the returns are low I leave. That logic works in markets but it does not build nations. Citizenship is not transactional. And when an entire generation begins to think like customers rather than stakeholders the country does not collapse overnight. It slowly empties out.

There is a reason Bhagat Singh is remembered and it is not because he lived in a better India. He lived in a worse one. But his framework was different. He did not ask what freedom would give

him. He asked what he could give to freedom. That is not poetry. That is an ideology. And somewhere along the way we replaced that ideology with comfort and exit options.

The same ideological weakness appears in our relationship with law. On paper India has strong constitutional guarantees. Article 14 promises equality. Article 21 promises dignity. The IPC criminalises violence and abuse. Yet what citizens experience is not absence of law but selective enforcement. And selective enforcement is more dangerous than no law because it teaches people that justice depends on status.

The Pune Porsche case exposed this reality. A minor from a powerful family kills two people while driving drunk. Within hours there are allegations of evidence manipulation and procedural dilution. The law did not change. Power entered the process. The same pattern repeats in institutional crimes where the instinct is to protect reputation rather than deliver justice. This is not a failure of drafting. It is an enforcement credibility crisis. And credibility once lost cannot be restored with speeches.

We do not have a law problem. We have an ideology problem. An ideology that believes rules apply differently depending on who you are. And until that is confronted, Viksit Bharat will remain cosmetic.

Another contradiction lies in how we treat youth. Every scheme treats young people as beneficiaries waiting for outcomes. But youth are not the audience of development. They are its workforce. Sixty five percent of India is under thirty five. You do not build a country by sidelining its majority. You build it by giving them authority, responsibility and accountability.

We need systems where young people execute real projects not simulations. Where failure is part of learning not a life sentence. Where education develops capacity instead of eliminating confidence. Where governance is measured by outcomes not announcements. Where enforcement is boringly consistent regardless of surname or social capital.

The truth is Viksit Bharat is possible. Not because we are exceptional but because we already have the constitutional and human foundation for it. What we lack is ideological honesty. We want equality but tolerate exceptions. We want opportunity but accept exclusion. We want development but avoid responsibility.

2047 is twenty three years away. One generation. Our generation. And history will not ask how well we spoke about development. It will ask whether we stayed long enough to build it.

We cannot plan our exits and also claim we care about the future of this country. We have to choose. Builder or spectator. Executor or critic. Stakeholder or consumer.

The Constitution did not say the state shall provide. It said we the people. And until we start acting like that sentence applies to us, Viksit Bharat will remain an idea we admired and never built.
