

5. National Conference of Chief Secretaries- Polity

PM Modi chairs fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi. The Fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries adopted the theme "Human Capital for Viksit Bharat," mandating states to create ten-year roadmaps to transform India into a \$30-trillion developed economy by 2047. The framework prioritizes administrative convergence, manufacturing self-reliance, and converting India's demographic dividend into productive human capital through targeted reforms in education, health, and digital governance.

About National Conference of Chief Secretaries (NCCS)

Origin & Institutional Status

1. Establishment- Institutionalised in 2022; first held in June 2022 (Dharamshala).
2. Nature- A non-statutory, executive-level platform chaired by the Prime Minister.
3. Focus- Prioritizes policy implementation and execution over legislation or dispute resolution.

Composition- Includes Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs, Union Secretaries, and senior central officials. Facilitates Horizontal Coordination (State-to-State) and Vertical Coordination (Centre-to-State).

Objectives- Bridge the gap between Central policy formulation and on-ground State execution. Address institutional asymmetries to strengthen Cooperative Federalism. Promote outcome-based governance through peer learning and sharing best practices.

Fifth National Conference (2025)- Key Highlights

Theme- "Human Capital for Viksit Bharat"

Strategic Governance & Policy Roadmap

Ten-Year Action Plans- States/UTs must create decadal roadmaps with measurable targets for Years 1, 2, 5, and 10.

State-Level PRAGATI- States urged to replicate the Centre's PRAGATI platform for real-time project monitoring and removing infrastructure bottlenecks.

Administrative Efficiency- Video conferences for District Collectors capped at two hours per week to maximize time for fieldwork and grassroots administration. Establishment of Data Strategy Units and Deregulation Cells to improve "Ease of Doing Business."

Manufacturing & Economic Self-Reliance

National Manufacturing Mission (NMM)- Upcoming launch aimed at building infrastructure to attract global investors.

Import Substitution- Identification of 100 specific products for domestic manufacturing to reduce import dependency.

Quality Standards- Implementation of the "Zero Defect, Zero Effect" (ZED) model to ensure global quality with environmental sustainability.

Service Sector Expansion- Push for Global Capability Centres (GCCs) beyond IT, expanding into Healthcare, Transport, and AI.

Innovation, Culture & Agriculture

Gyan Bharatam Mission- A new initiative utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to digitize ancient manuscripts and synthesize historical knowledge.

AgriStack- Digital foundation for agriculture to create smart supply chains and improve market access.

Ayush Integration- Mainstreaming Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy into the primary healthcare network.

Security Strategy

Post-LWE Phase- With domestic threats reducing, the focus is shifting to development-centric plans for areas previously affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

Understanding Viksit Bharat (Developed India 2047)

Vision- To transform India into a developed nation by 2047 (100th year of Independence), anchored in Article 38 (Welfare State) and SDG-8 (Decent Work).

Core Pillars

1. **Yuva** (Youth)

2. **Garib** (Poor)
3. **Mahila** (Women)
4. **Kisan** (Farmers)

Key Metrics & Targets for 2047

Indicator	Current Status (Approx. 2025)	Target for 2047
Economic Size	~\$4 Trillion (growing)	\$30 Trillion
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.685 (Rank 130 - Medium)	> 0.800 (Very High)
Informal Workforce	~90%	< 30%
Gender Gap Rank	131 (out of 148)	Top 50
Power Capacity	~500 GW	High capacity for 1.65B people

Human Resource Development (HRD)- The Engine of Growth

Current Demographic Context

Working Age Population- Nearly 70% of India's population is in the working-age group.

Electricity Capacity- Total installed capacity is 500.89 GW.

1. Non-fossil fuels- 256.09 GW (51%)
2. Fossil fuels- 244.80 GW (49%)
3. Note- India achieved the COP26 target of 50% non-fossil capacity five years early.

Strategies for HRD

1. **Education Reform-** Shift from rote learning to project-based learning (inspired by Finland).
2. **Continuous Professional Development-** Teachers to undergo 100 hours of annual training (Singapore model).
3. **Industry-Academia Linkage-** Scaling models like IIT Madras Research Park.

Vocational Training- Adopting Germany's Dual Vocational Training model. Organizing "Skill Festivals" for youth.

Health & Nutrition

1. Telemedicine- Leveraging technology to bridge rural-urban gaps (Kerala model).
2. Nutritional Security- Expanding community kitchens like Amma Unavagam (Tamil Nadu).
3. Preventative Care- Strengthening Ayushman Bharat for early diagnosis.

Research & Innovation

1. **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)-** To drive industry-academia-government collaboration.
2. **Incubation-** Promoting startup hubs like IIT Bombay's SINE.

Challenges to Inclusive Viksit Bharat

Demographic & Employment Concerns

Ageing Transition

1. 2025- 33% of the population is aged 20-29.
2. 2047- The proportion of youth (20-29) will equalize with the older working-age group at ~28%, signalling an ageing workforce.

Unemployment Crisis

1. Graduate Unemployment- Stands at 29.1% (9x higher than illiterate unemployment at 3.4%).
2. Youth Share- Youth (15-29 years) constitute 82.9% of total unemployed persons.
3. Employability- Only 54.8% of graduates are employable (India Skills Report 2025).

Gender Disparity

1. Global Ranking- India ranks 131st out of 148 in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025.
2. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)- Male- 77.2%, Female- 35.1% (Significant gap limiting economic potential).
3. Educated Female Unemployment- Stands at a critical 21.4%.

Innovation & R&D Deficit

1. R&D Spending- Private sector contributes only 36.4% of India's R&D expenditure (compared to >70% in developed nations).

2. Patent Disparity- While India is 6th in total patent filings, it is 47th in *resident* patent applications per million population, indicating reliance on foreign IP.
3. Global Output- Despite having 17.5% of the global population, India generates only 3% of global research output.

Implementation & Infrastructure

1. Bureaucratic Inertia- Resistance to administrative reforms and compliance-heavy governance.
2. Data Gaps- Shortage of skilled personnel for Data Strategy Units.
3. MSME Compliance- High cost of adopting ZED standards may exclude smaller firms from Global Value Chains.

Way Forward- The Road to 2047

Governance & Federalism

1. Institutional Coordination- Regularize Chief Secretary Conferences to manage Centre-State asymmetry.
2. Accountability- Operationalize 10-Year Plans with strict 1, 2, and 5-year milestones.
3. Data-Driven Policy- Empower Data Strategy Units for evidence-based decision-making.

Economic & R&D Transformation

1. R&D Target- Increase Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) from 0.64% to 2% of GDP within 5-7 years.
2. Funding- Utilize the ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund to bypass bureaucratic delays for strategic research.
3. GCC Expansion- Incentivize Global Capability Centres in Tier-2/3 cities to prevent urban saturation.

Social & Human Capital

1. Women-Led Development- Formalize unpaid care work (valued at ~7.5% of GDP) and invest in the care economy.
2. Education- Universalize Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).
3. Health- Integrate traditional systems (AYUSH) with modern science for a holistic health system.

International Positioning

1. Global Talent Capital- Leverage 1,700+ GCCs (generating \$75B revenue) to position India as the world's R&D hub.
2. Circular Migration- Institutionalize G2G agreements with aging economies (Germany, Japan) for legal mobility.
3. Digital Diplomacy- Share India Stack (DPI) with the Global South as a tool of soft power.

The 3R Approach (Amartya Sen)

1. Reach- Ensure benefits physically reach marginalized communities.
2. Range- Use diverse means (traditional + digital) to attack deprivations.
3. Reason- Prioritize sectors that expand human *capabilities*, not just GDP.

Source- <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/pm-modi-chairs-fifth-national-conference-of-chief-secretaries-in-delhi/#-~text=Prime%20Minister%20Narendra%20Modi%20on,from%20December%2026%20to%2028.>