

Original Article

Youth Leadership as the Loom of Nation Building in Viksit Bharat

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Manuscript ID:
BN-2026-030229

ISSN: 3065-7865

Volume 3

Issue 2

February 2026

Pp 152-161

Submitted: 15 Jan 2026

Revised: 27 Jan 2026

Accepted: 15 Feb 2026

Published: 28 Feb 2026

DOI:

10.5281/zenodo.20483456

DOI link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20483456>



Quick Response Code:



Website: <https://bnir.us>



Abstract

The vision of Viksit Bharat places youth at the centre of nation-building by encouraging leadership, innovation, service, and democratic participation. This paper explores how young people contribute to social transformation through education, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and community-based initiatives. Schools act as incubators of creativity and responsibility, where students develop awareness of local problems and work collectively toward sustainable solutions. Youth entrepreneurship further strengthens this process by transforming innovative ideas into impactful ventures that address challenges related to climate, technology, agriculture, and social welfare. The study also highlights the importance of mentorship networks, peer leadership, and institutional support in shaping confident and resilient young leaders. Government bodies, civil society organizations, and private institutions together create ecosystems that encourage participation, skill development, and inclusive growth. At the same time, the paper discusses challenges such as inequality, fear, fatigue, and lack of opportunities, which often hinder youth engagement. Through examples from rural and urban India, the article demonstrates how young citizens are creating transformative changes in agriculture, digital innovation, environmental awareness, and participatory governance. The paper concludes that the success of Viksit Bharat depends on empowering youth with quality education, digital inclusion, democratic opportunities, and long-term institutional support. By nurturing creativity, resilience, and civic responsibility, India can build a generation capable of shaping a more inclusive, sustainable, and progressive future.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat, Youth Leadership, Nation Building, Civic Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Education, Democratic Participation, Rural Development, Innovation, Mentorship, Social Transformation, Digital Inclusion, Community Service, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

Prologue: The Spark in a Young Heart

The back gate creaks open, and the evening news pushes past on high-flying paper wings, flipping and flapping its way through the school grounds. It plunges into the woods, settles gently on the earth amongst tangled roots and fallen leaves. Its latest decisions drip down from fragile hands into waiting hearts. And lingers! Something pulsing in the distance. In a few short moments, nearby voices rise, and a handful of smiling faces appear. Ideas are bouncing. Real things are taking shape. Real change is happening. Together.

I feel the pulse in a different way too. The same play in my dreams: fingers flying far and free, the smell of bubbling cream and hot croissants lifting, breathing into my nose. A hot gleaming iron holds an attractive shape as I lay it on the grill. The fragrant aroma drifts from my stall and lures customers into the warm shelter of my project. The first kaarvadi are flying off. And far away the first croissant races into her hand—everyone is influenced by and influencing the flow, light, and figments of the future.

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How to cite this article:

Baswade, V. A. (2026). Youth Leadership as the Loom of Nation Building in Viksit Bharat. *Bulletin of Nexus Journal*, 3(2), 152–161. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20483456>

One shoot materialises out of many—in different lives across this world, emanating from different cities and towns, villages and cells, yet always travelling along the same road: a Viksit Bharat—a developed, resilient, and prosperous India. Something is growing again, something full of energy, light, and warmth: the fearless voice of the youth. A collective voice bursting forth from classes everywhere, flowing into freedom, growing bolder and bolder by the day. One day far in the future, I will hold in my right hand a crystal-clear mirror. With all its attractive features, it will reflect everything inside me—all the sparkling ideas and dreams fluttering around in my heart. And with my other hand, I will hold tightly onto the wheel that drives the baton of the Indian Nation. The road may be bumpy and full of fears, yet I am confident in my proper preparation and guidance. I feel it more than I can understand it, but it's definitely there; one day I will uncover the voice. It's real. I can feel it. I'm sure I will.

The Rise of Youth Voices: From Classroom to Common Purpose

As classrooms fill with eager learners, the mysteries of mathematics, biology, history and language capture, inspire, and ignite a passion for learning. Driven by curiosity, a youth seeks joy, knowledge, understanding, friends, and laughter. Yet one day, early on in class, a teacher posed a question not found in textbooks. Seated among classmates, the youth leaned forward, heart racing at a question that burrowed beneath the skin: "What is your dream for your country?"

A question for which he had no answer.

He pondered and shifted in his seat. Thoughts raced, yet words could not be formed. As the class shared silent camaraderie in rumination and reflection, four words printed themselves in an aching, tender heartbeat: "Be happy. Be strong."

That simple truth encapsulated intention and desire, an echo of self yearning to be shared broad and far. A purpose took root: when every member of a common community possesses steadfast resolve to pursue happiness, the people together rise to shared greatness and fulfil their collective destiny.

Unconsciously named as childhood, youth remains an incomplete, captivating stage in a vital, defined movement. A surprise awakens understanding that that pursuit of happiness calls for unfettered freedom and eventually touches upon the freedom of choice. At that moment, ambition flickers. The marrow of safety mingles with the taste of thrilling danger.

Between the fourth and fifth child and erstwhile isolation, a small community managed to form—a band of students, five voices drawn together, four limbs on a single tree. Multiplying bills of shared fare found denouement through friendly introduction to a sixth other. For the first time lived together as a community.

Around then began church attendance, weekly as well as additively occasional or else customary. Distinct qualities of weekly class and message struck consistently. Heartbeats of the world, sprawled across the map, and filtered through the imagination. Ordinary wishes and humble tasks, routine and throughout did prevail. Men, women, children, nations standing tall together, or clean and pure yet entirely enwrapped in filth act beneath the awning of a street, a mere glance, one spotlight orb, enough laughter could satisfy the pursuit one hundred times over, enough escape from the crumbling lives, repeated throughout, the very first glimpse, transformed every angle of view possessed.

Early days train the listening of words spoken, yet not widely shareable. Scripts prepared to offer around the village fell deep beneath a veil. Only the classroom stillable touches letters sent upon wind. As unscored, sidelong threads of thought scour, and composition accumulate word-space, an uninvited corridor to many parallel tracks propagates. By its surface converging kinds of insight synthesize and common exposure made toward myriad words spoken and printed yet untemplated, at least comprehensively upon a larger medium yet dawn. Systemically and non-discriminately outside opened yet have not deploy broadly deliberate remain.

The classroom dream remains personal whilst visible companionship surrounds. A matured enigma presents sense of considerable room—a blend of unsettled knowing and unbroken blank global half-contours, more glimpses awake than opaque tenfold. The tempo speeds its careful pace forward. One build minded reverberate where arise, what held, where head circle, forward begin yet not boldly at nine, sense already after traveling more—now revive repeat cycle. Each senses its measure of takers crowded mid-volume wheel driven tight toward bass resound, stillness sorely not partisan neighbor heard alone.

Still enclose between trembling rising merely surround drops enclosure remains. The seat stirs, larger space frolics compelling. Above flows still accompany catch yet improbability spun dry diversion tendency. Drab pages stretched trivial in lengthy slow reduction spend offering heap. A pleading heart still trying to reveal.

Mentors, Moments, and Making Meaning

As time unfolded slowly between engagement in education and active participation in entrepreneurship, these young inner dialogues naturally gave way to a broader community discourse, organically ushering in opportunities to think, collaborate, and act toward a common purpose (A. Henness & Ball, 2019). With an intellectual foundation provided through formal training progressively amplified by peer learning, students completed the transition to youthful voice—a dialogue reflecting honestly on what they had observed, what they felt, what they wished to comprehend, and what actions they envisioned along a Rampal road toward Viksit Bharat.

Early pioneer invitations from the 3rd generation Viksit Bharat host communities to the National Youth Space accelerated the discovery of a social design project first stimulated by a Youth-First programme sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and elementally linked to the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals. Supported by the Indian School of Business and Youth For India Fellowship, these citizen-led sessions sought to distil the essence of youth aspirations for collaborative structuring. Just one month later, two participants co-hosted a Design Thinking Workshop with NASSCOM Future Skills, first mentoring youth voice engagement articulating the influence of design on aspirations and entrepreneurship linked to both locality and global opportunity.

Uplifting a vision framed by neighbouring Youth and 3rd Generation circles, the systematic condensation across these sessions naturally coalesced into a dot-laden map tracing prominent collaborative efforts by regional counterparts. Such exploratory documentation built upon the earlier India Y (Viksit Bharat) configuration, illuminating fresh movement dynamics together with accompanying offer-requirement complements; this enriched emerged instantly broke further into community-location-scale, elevating the frame. Activating anticipatory consideration of future facilitators ahead of co-creation, the neighbouring architecture for Youth-Viksit Bharat space faster began reflection on Purpose, with a Youth Voice Workshop ensuing at the Young Energiers Institute of Entrepreneurship in Gurugram to collectively reframe Indic desires toward a wider individual, regional governance, sustainability, collaboration, and community.

Stories of Courage: Local Leaders, Global Dreams

Youth leaders are the source of vibrant changes in society despite their apparent insignificance. Not shining bright like a shooting

star, but like a shell, their inner effects remain unobserved until they reveal their strength. Because of their fortitude and entrepreneurial spirit, many motionless dreamers who only think and talk about making a difference are now becoming the change they desire to see.

Five youth, all connected to each other by a mentor, shared moments that transformed their lives and pushed them toward emotional and spiritual fulfillment. One of these five met a young, passionate but silent mentor who had the ability to perceive the cause of his silence at first sight. During the first visit to his village, the mentor instinctively asked him to serve the younger generation—the next day, during a three-day camp on development, the student was back quite confident and successful. Soon after, another mentor in a different part of the nation transformed hearts and minds even among students who were already "seniors" in the habit of doing nothing. This impact was much more than a necessary change for the nation; it seemed a necessity for a universal transformation. With the help of local mentors, students from one neighborhood are now helping those of other neighborhoods during these attempt-at-a-change efforts. Hence the exhortation from the mentor drew success—impact at a root level. The students now aspire to transform their villages and even attend the "Bharath-Dharma-Samskruthi-Sandharbh-Bhagavad-Gita Purasya Yojana" in the hope of skill sharing, brainstorming future ventures, getting funding, and above all, moving toward the age of dreams.

Pathways of Engagement: Education, Entrepreneurship, Service

Various roads lead to the same destination; sometimes they come together and split apart again. India's young leaders engage with their communities across three interconnected pathways: education, entrepreneurship, and service. Each route reinforces civic agency and trust while generating social value. Schooling cultivates the next generation of thinkers. Classrooms become laboratories for researching pressing social issues, transforming ordinary assignments into community-focused projects. Students devise solutions that improve transport, biodiversity, and healthcare—activities that inspire classmates, families, and friends. Youth entrepreneurship channels ideas, talent, and ambition into startups and social ventures—even before reaching college. Entrepreneurs address climate challenges, promote local crafts, democratize technology, and achieve impact at scale. Widespread support facilitates growth: accessible mentoring, workshops, accelerators, funding sources, and vibrant

networks. Even setbacks transform into stories of learning and resilience through a lens that perceives both risk and reward. Service unfolds with selflessness. Young people undertake community-building initiatives, create mutual-aid networks, and support each other through moments of crisis. They mentor peers across generations, honouring the ethical responsibilities of citizenship while seeking collaborative solutions to communal concerns. (Zenner et al., 2017)

Schools as Incubators of Purpose

A world of possibilities opens up when students step into a classroom, eager to soak in knowledge. A classroom is a holy place for blossoming minds and an incubator for uplifting purpose and thought. Classroom learning encompasses book-based learning, foundational skills, experiential learning, project-based thinking, and participative teaching, where teachers serve as facilitators and mentors. Inquiry-based activities stimulate collective wisdom, developing critical thinking, innovative imagination, entrepreneurial agility, social awareness, and deep emotional intelligence. Mentorship plays a pivotal role in this journey, where mentors and teachers nurture each emerging spark and let it fly. Various stories showcase teachers who go above and beyond to uplift the aspirations of their students, sharing their own experiences and struggles. Special moments such as the Rani of Jhansi play and the Holi festival become milestones, where students discover and showcase hidden talents. They find camaraderie with peers who share similar aspirations, intertwining positive intention, collective effort, and individual reinforcement.

While students learn within classrooms, some ideas and aspirations start taking shape at home. An example is a group of students who were fascinated by the cyclonic winds in Vishakhapatnam after the cyclone and discussed weather forecasts during neighbourhood walks. They approached a teacher eager to know how weather forecasts are made and how weather maps are made. Communities encourage students and aspirations flourished, setting the base for start-up, a group weather forecast programme was then initiated leading to several other weather related activities in both schools and in community. Weather community pages is one of the output of the same where important weather updates are shared. While telling that one day the weather can be forecasted based on height of plants and trees, soil quality, river water level and wind direction of three consecutive daily hours in locality, many felt positively fascinated that they thought of doing the water, cyclone & water cyclone project with

schoolmates in their own native language other than going for already available forecast programs in national language.

Whether ideas are shared openly or nurtured quietly, their seedlings start sprouting in schools through intriguing projects. Instead of just absorbing textbook knowledge, aspirants take on their own mission to solve local issues. During mundane journeys to school involving either a long walk or a crowded bus ride, students notice surroundings which often go neglected or unaddressed – leaks, missing pipes, cracked walls, unigated ponds, discarded bottles, litter, and other pollution problems lurking at every other step. For an individual, it may be too much. When they began sharing these micro problems during collaborative school classroom discussions, mentors lead guided inquiry-based project into simple but impactful “community beautification” project which ended with measures that could be implemented by either individual or groups at their respective convenience.

A supportive teacher recognises the beauty in collective sharing and problems floating under the radar and sends out notifications across classes, encouraging those willing to take it up further. Aspirants quickly form several small groups around the idea, visit nearby schools to gauge interest, conduct surveys at parks and local crowd sources to actively seek involvement, kite tag students of nearby schools in neighbouring communities across age groups, and start documenting data at individual levels across various forms of pre-recorded video & audio messages on listed aspects regarding community, issues felt and related possible sustainable solutions – findors at school endorse capturing these collective “micro ideas” from respective mentee groups, leading to formulation of remix video across community and nearby villages highlighting and introducing vacant themes. They were fortunate enough to be guided by some well-wishers and further expanded into sustaining thoughts around climatic issues followed by the “eco-peace” video support around premier planting day which was encouraged further with eco-friendly notions throughout. (Corboy et al., 2018)

Youth Entrepreneurship: Turning Ideas into Impact

A youth entrepreneur is someone who desires to tackle challenges, finds solutions, and yet keeps growing and learning ((Illuri) Venkatanarayana, 2016). A young entrepreneur’s journey starts with finding the right team and approach to the problem at hand. Government and private sector help young entrepreneurs get

funding through grants, competitions, and angel investors, but even with an excellent idea, finding the right support can seem an election campaign.

Service and support cannot stop at start-up, though. Having a good level of mentorship, guidance from others who have tried similar paths, a place where one can share updates and seek advice when one reaches a seemingly insurmountable challenge, can help turn a single idea into something with a larger range of impact.

Service with Selflessness: Civic Projects and Mutual Aid

Crowd-funded community service models demonstrate how—through infrastructure, human capital, and financing—some communities sustain waves of collective outreach for large-scale mutual aid and greater public service within society. Their appeal crosses age and local-regional boundaries, drawing youth, seniors, households, offices, organizations, NGOs, and more into generous, authentic, and selfless contributions. Mass citizens' pledges are promoted through social media and serve to mobilize neighbourhood groups to address requests ranging from food, education, medical support, and technology to counselling or transportation in times of need. Far from the stereotyped "bandwagon effect" of inciting the same idea in similar contexts, the desirability of participation induces people to join the movement and bring forth new activity packages because they are seeing the kindness done to their own neighbours and grateful for the service KPIs achieved by others. Sanctuaries are rooted in the spirit of "Bhagavad Gita" and promote ethical citizenship and universal well-being. Youth standing up also indicates a deeper understanding that passion for social impact overcomes personal benefit and that solving basic societal challenges lays the foundation for development towards global prosperity humanity's shared vision (Sherraden, 2001).

Institutions and Ecosystems: Guiding Hands and Open Roads

Youth leadership initiatives flourish across society—each burdened with society's excess, each a proof of the vibrancy of Viksit Bharat's assurance to the world. From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, youth of Viksit Bharat unhurriedly stitch the collective fabric of a future at once vivid, twenty-five years braver, from their homes. They break the noise of social media and educational institutions and mend it into a loving dialogue that draws upon the labour of so many, one each deserves their just accolade. Within each heart of a motivated youth swells the eternal hope for safety from the cruelty of ignorance and life without purpose, the offerings of human

society to humanity. A befitting time has come when school curricula, mass civil and private efforts, non-profits and national policy furnish the breath of collective, universal inspiration across every corner, and Viksit Bharat's zenith strives to reach Adult Viksit Bharat or full Nirvikhyat. Bulletins join every week superseding portfolios, squashing dreams and ambitions beyond a third of a village, toiling without meat or propping creativity within an academic existence designed without care for youth's aspirations. (Sherraden, 2001)

Government, Civil Society, and Private Partners

The Government, Civil Society, and Private Partners play a crucial and interdependent role in nation building. Citizens and organisations from all three sectors have higher accountability when they collaborate and align their efforts with policies and priorities of government. Partners from civil society and the private sector "create innovative pathways" when they initiate out-of-the-box solutions and endeavours. Such initiatives are more impactful when they are tagged along broad policies and schemes. Leaders and organisations from all three sectors make responsible efforts to build trust and facilitate convenient access to participate, contribute and collaborate with their fellow citizens. Civic leaders and organisations in these sectors play a special role when the society is afraid and under the cloud of fear. Sherraden emphasises that youth leadership is a consequence of the attached marginal value of youth engagement to the social structure, economic system, and civic system (Sherraden, 2001).

Mentorship Networks and Peer Leadership

Youth are poised to lead their own development through social networks and peer-led interactions. They can better appreciate the perspectives of their contemporaries and propose solutions that resonate with youth. Leaders in the education sector recognize the potential of youth-led governance and have embraced peer-led initiatives. Schools are increasingly supporting youth-led councils and forums as complements to their supervisory bodies. They are also fostering youth-led programs, clubs, and experiments while bridging gaps within the community and between generations.

Three enduring mentorship networks exemplify the positive impact and guidance of peer leaders. Municipal and state councils are youth-led governance initiatives that create entry points for everyone to engage in the formal legislative process at public forums. Councils help youth address questions that arise from pressing social issues, such as those related to environmental, public

health, or technology concerns, and work toward a collective vision and action plan.

Peers who have directly navigated leadership pathways are best suited to build the confidence of emerging leaders, encourage them to embrace constructive involvement, and facilitate smart work. These mentors help youth balance ambition with consideration for accountability, and peer-led initiatives reduce the intimidation factor associated with reaching out for guidance and advice. Efforts to provide critical support on the learning journey of aspiring leaders are essential to boost confidence and commitment while also providing opportunities.

Challenges on the Road: Inequality, Fear, and Fatigue

When the call to leadership resounds, some heed the summons wholeheartedly; others respond cautiously or with trepidation. Many others still hesitate or refuse. Even among those who accept the challenge, who want to make a difference, fear can loom large: fear of failure, of falling short, of being judged for their actions. Yet without the courage to step forward, to confront the unknown, nothing will change. Where leadership flourishes in spite of fear, then, it does so through conscious ritual—the shared practices, the small acts of courage, that turn fleeting emotional moments into sustainable spells of resilience.

A basic principle of gratitude-based networks is that the act of receiving should not incite guilt—the expectation of a payback. The network can also grow from spontaneous humility among givers when they see the impacts of their contributions. The polarisation of feelings is crucial. Recognition reinforces an individual's resolve to contribute more the next time it is their turn to give. A special effort is often required to alleviate anxiety amid periods of uncertainty, when fear becomes contagious and a thick cloud of fatigue envelops the channel. Momentary bursts of courage can lift the mood and break inertia, but joy should be nurtured between such flashes, to sustain energy levels and willingness to keep giving. Without such nurturing, fatigue can thicken into layer upon layer of resignation: "Let others act. I will wait until someone does something, and then I shall join." Determined action sows the seeds for more to follow, yet for fatigue to lift, the present needs to be traded rather than similarly tempered for the future. If indeed the inaction of the bold-hearted arises from guilt, then sharing past rewards and inviting new proposals with fresh gratitude should ease the burden.

Balancing Ambition with Accountability

Today's youth leaders are steering ambitious initiatives inspired by core democratic principles. They are reminded that success is grounded in community service and this leadership must evolve to maintain momentum and accountability (S. Rasmussen & F. Rasmussen, 2006). Youth democrats have long been drawn to repeat the same mistakes, often fueled by ego or flawed motives. Multiple "youth for youth" organisations are taking shape, emphasising that constructive societal change does not count unless it includes the opportunity to causally validate the ambitions of local community mates.

Navigating Fear: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Learning, enterprise, and service are sometimes considered by scholars as separate pathways for youth engagement, but in practice they are closely interwoven. Project work in schools requires creativity, initiative, and collaboration, and such experiences provide a solid foundation if youth later venture into entrepreneurship. Conversely, those who establish startups often give back to their communities through education, mentoring, and social ventures. Both young entrepreneurs and youth leaders also occasionally draw on mentorship from senior individuals within their networks. As each group finds its voice, they explore their role within Viksit Bharat, navigating the rewards and risks of expressing their ambition.

Building confidence in one's agency involves three interrelated dimensions: identifying and pursuing aspirations, facing one's fears, and developing the resilience to withstand adversity. Inspiration from heroic stories, personal coaches and mentors, and support from a peer group that exchanges both uplifting and cautionary tales are all essential. Resilience is also enhanced by creating spaces and rituals within which it's safe to express vulnerability and receive psychological support. Youths of Viksit Bharat are determined to unlock their potential and build the future they envision, but as their story reveals, sustaining their momentum requires ongoing encouragement and empathic engagement.

Narratives of Transformation: Case Studies from Viksit Bharat

Viksit Bharat is woven of many stories of growth, courage, and change. Three cases illustrate how young voices have transformed their surroundings, taken steps towards greater aspirations, and illuminated pathways for others. While the accounts differ in scale and scope, they share a common foundation: resilient youth

engaging with their communities across generations.

The first case centres on rural transformation. Young women and men from a village in Uttar Pradesh have catalysed a quiet revolution in agricultural practices, creating lucrative, earth-friendly cultivation and trading models by marrying technology with traditional wisdom. Using drones and biological solutions, they have increased farm productivity and raised the bar on quality that a local startup leverages for export. Their success has given rise to a youth-led ecosystem that encourages similar initiatives across neighbouring villages.

The second case maps a vibrant pattern emerging in urban areas. Youngsters are spearheading local innovation centres to develop and implement tech solutions to address community issues in a sustainable manner. Parallely, youth councils are being formed in key cities to promote informed civic participation. Initially conceived as a platform for deliberation, these councils are now potentially shifting governance from tokenistic deference to youth towards authentic partnership and collaboration.

In essence, Viksit Bharat embodies two intertwined narratives. One celebrates the courage of young local leaders focused on transforming their immediate environments. The other traces the courageous determination manifested when ambition crosses borders, permitting an outlook shaped by connecting dreams rather than by the limiting belief that distance begets difference.

Rural Rising: Agriculture, Tech, and Empowerment

The agricultural sector, as a backbone of the Indian economy, holds immense potential for youth-led innovation and establishment of value chains in rural India. The ease of access to modern age digital tools, services and devices such as smart mobile phones allows rural and semi-urban farmers to explore the reach of new technology. Conditions exist for the future generation of farmers to outsmart the hurdles of climate, soil and water management so that agricultural and livestock farming become instruments not of deceased ancestors but of vivacious youth. In Uttarakhand, young technocrats have created a mechanism to generate and share geo-referenced, local-level weather data for agriculture. Some of these youth are working independently or have formed groups to establish value-added chains for fruits and vegetables by themselves. They have also invented gadgets to conserve water and remove iron from water sources. A total of 225 clonal gardens established by a group of rural youth in

Uttarakhand to do commercial apple nursery production has saved Rs 1.95 crore for the first season from the import of 2.94 lakh high-density apple saplings (Gangwar & Kameswari, 2016).

City Corridors: Innovation Hubs and Youth Councils

As digital hubs spring up in semi-urban and urban Viksit Bharat, active and vibrant youth councils develop within or alongside these corridors. Deliberation enhances collective ambition and comfort with governance, inspiring youth to take up queues. Urban youth councils become role models for local governments, and youth participation in formal governance structures—including voting—becomes a naturally occurring thing.

Enabling inter-city facilities for Indian youths introduces delimiters and dependency that atrophy local and social engagement—alongside practical-deliberate, short-term-long-term, and rural-urban balances. Instead, specialised tech-hubs and youth councils with periodic urban-rural corridors enable idea flow while making the fabric of nation-building every bit as local as it used to be. Each city, as in earlier times, thus has the potential to iron out its own problems while being a natural home for its own countrymen; and do so with safety, comfort, and cultural warmth.

Policy Echoes: How Leaders Shape a Nation

Leaders forge the future, particularly in a nation that aspires to be Viksit Bharat—developed India. Voices young and dynamic rise amidst the clamour for growth. They resonate with their peers and defy the odds en route to making their mark. Leadership is their communion of trust and action; it is the will to lighten the burden of another while being uplifted in a shared act of creating light. Long before climbing the ladder, it is common to lean forth and gather brightness from its base. Large questions of life form, foundations of meaning arise, and in pursuit of the good, like-minded souls forge purpose and community.

If, as has been said, policy reflects the soul of a nation (S. Rasmussen & F. Rasmussen, 2006), it is but another aspect of leadership; it is through their voice that citizens invite the help of those entrusted to administer it so they may, dream, plot, respectively and collectively embrace the steps of fruition. Young and growing leaders instil a deep desire for a much better nation crafted for the whole of society, everywhere, tailoring the present fabric to encompass the future and further generations, remaining cohesive through time.

Education Reform, Digital Inclusion, and Opportunities for All

The quality of education, digital access, and opportunities are primary enablers to nurture engaged citizens in Viksit Bharat. Building knowledge and sound judgment needs constant and balanced education. Effective schooling is the fulcrum of learning, mentoring and aspiring to be leaders crossing school to complex destiny. Viksit Bharat acknowledges the spirit of schools to act as start-ups in these aspects –to provide institutional support beyond education, advisory competitions and learning ecosystems and to facilitate a marketplace where institutions, private partners and government can co-generate opportunities with youth at centre-stage.

Supporting life-long learning opportunities, robust digital inclusion from urban to rural and enabling communities to adapt technologies will help Viksit Bharat to bridge these enablers and reinforcing aspiration, courage and acting together.

Governance through Participation: Voting, Deliberation, and Delays

While the space for citizen deliberation in representative democracies is inherently limited, democratic engagement of citizens is not confined to moments of electoral choice. The possibility of popular deliberation before and beyond electoral events constitutes an important form of democratic participation. As the polity matures and complexifies, governments face the challenge of making policy choices that reflect the will of the citizenry. Citizens themselves, meanwhile, grapple with the effects of their collective will on individual freedoms and moral convictions. When confronted with encroachments on individual liberties, the teenage thinker wonders whether the imposition of these infringements upon the self is a parody of democracy or merely civic folly. Such acts of collective frenzy plague peoples who, at blind bifurcations in national destiny, stand compelled to choose one road or the other without the opportunity to pause and reflect. When the carrot of corporate professionalism appears to dangle just beyond the employable horizon, the aspiration of citizens to have their intended thoughts and deeds matched only by their written cursive seems somehow unreachable. As the self reevaluates the original medium by which it transmitted its embryonic thoughts, mature questions arise concerning the extent to which thoughtful resolutions may indeed preserve the dignity of deliberative democracy.

Parliamentary democracies privilege popular feedback and re-engagement at the stage

immediately following the exercise of the electoral franchise. Yet public sentiment at the level of common debate may change in sophisticated yet unrecorded ways between one election and the next. Mechanisms enabling the representation and consideration of citizen sentiments between elections matter greatly. (Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) & Council, 2010) Whether incidental and unbudgeted by the governing apparatus or encouraged by those contributing to budgets, these exchanges nonetheless constitute a welcome platform through which popular preferences beyond the elected free-and-open can be aired. Extension of engagement channels by methodical or incidental means enables representatives to tailor–within the Iambic system–the rhythm of governing policy to the expectations and intents of constituents. Patterns revealed through narration among citizens fellow travellers routinely trigger recognition of fellow sentiments and intuitions.

The Long Arc: Vision, Action, and Shared Destiny

In the world today, individuals are grappling with the challenging reality that the youth are fundamentally starting to drift away from moral and emotional goodness. The idea that when one fails, one does not only trip but tumbles down to another valley occurred later in life, unlike how it would occur at the first misstep during youth, was deeply entrenched. However, these scattered insights turn into a string of reflections when taken together. Collective yearning for every child to take the first step on a well-lit road whether their family backgrounds are good or not lives on together with an intense wish that the adults in society offering that opportunity does not come from undue expectations on reciting a specific textbook or a selected series of formats of how to write, paint, or talk.

Enabling children to display their own subjectivity and creativity in an atmosphere of societal cooperation at an earlier age through a key mechanism allowing for guidance and management for them in later life proves more vital. Therefore, whatever any adult in society is responsible for, first minds ought to be gathered collectively together closely to figure out how to create a better world so that as the anticipation rises as to how to run a desirable guidance channel, only pure hearts live in every community despite their backgrounds. This may go beyond youth and even the full life span of individuals in society at large. (S. Rasmussen & F. Rasmussen, 2006)

Sustaining Momentum: Institutions, Culture, and Continuity

Success is rarely sustained through a single moment of national resolve. Permanent

change requires durable institutions, deep cultural roots, and a long-term perspective. Without these anchors, hard-won gains can quickly erode, as fervent passions fade and collective action falters.

A nation-building vision must therefore inspire not just immediacy but continuity, as succeeding generations weave fresh threads into the same enduring cloth. In *Viksit Bharat*, previous leaders have sought triumphs on a monumental scale, amassing resources and striving for single-dimension perfection. A greater challenge lies in nurturing incremental development at multiple levels and across time horizons, while sustaining energy for actions that embrace complexity and embrace the broader purpose of nation building.

Institutions have been core to national visions across the world. A *Viksit Bharat* ambition focused on rejuvenating national institutions from the pre-colonial era onward would allow large-scale efforts to strengthen the educational, economic, civic, military, health, and environmental frameworks underpinning society as a whole, yet invite parallel and path-breaking initiatives complementary to vernacular systems. By transitioning to a long-term narrative and a collective, interconnected tale, opportunities can arise to deepen the nation-building inquiry and explore new contours of the journey ahead (Sherraden, 2001).

Epilogue: A Promise Written in Youthful Hands

The dormant potential of every nation lies in its youth—their dreams, aspirations, and determination shape its destiny. With courage and commitment, they weave together the varied strands of leadership and transform today's dreams into tomorrow's reality. Their journey is intertwined; as each takes small steps toward individual goals, they also progress along a larger shared path. Along the way, they learn and grow from mentors, role models, and peers, repeatedly remapping their identities. Yet voices of doubt and fear may emerge, hindering growth. As they navigate life—the first passage in personal evolution—both difficult and uplifting experiences leave their mark, and the rhythm of the journey begins to ring true.

Youth has always stood at the helm of change. As youth learn from life and become change-makers, their journeys of individual evolution transform into chronicles of collective contribution. *Viksit Bharat*—inspired, equipped, and capable—sees youth leading fragile change initiatives that develop into transformative movements. They experiment with lifelong learning pathways, foster selfless service ideals, and create volunteering and mutual aid networks. Despite

struggles with inequality, fear, and fatigue, their enthusiasm is something to cherish and nurture. Yet the unsolved problems still haunt India—of poor education, broken trust, threats to democracy, and sleek autocracy. They urge youth to embrace the larger vision of nation-building and work with a singular voice. It is a promise—written in youthful hands.

Conclusion

In some melodies, the refrain appears in harmony yet again. The heart flutters and the spirit dances: Courting the young, speaking to the sublime potential and assuring the community of unfolding promises—an unbroken theme of a nation and a timeless tale.

The vision of *Viksit Bharat* draws youth closer to the self, their fellow beings, and a shared journey, igniting the mind with a tapestry of vivid tales. Woven into the voice emerge new men and women, daring and devoted one and all, confronting local challenges with collaborative fearlessness, and expanding and emulating to lift others, steady on a planetary ride worthy of bearing. The heart starts fuelling purpose.

An unwavering, reverberating drumbeat emerges, striking together through every angle. Pathways of purposeful engagement resound, rippling from the lives of known changemakers. Certain nameless youth champion civic action, entrepreneurship, and service; others equally unknown connect purpose to classroom laboratories, building environmental stewardship, universal education and youth councils; and untold thousands yet similarly dispersed spin myriad specific commitments far beyond saving the world. The *Viksit Bharat* journey forthrightly illuminates actionable directions toward a shared promise transcending - yet somehow tying intimately to - the familiar contours of youth and leadership. (S. Rasmussen & F. Rasmussen, 2006)

Acknowledgment

The author expresses sincere gratitude to all scholars, educators, mentors, and researchers whose studies and insights contributed to the development of this paper. Special thanks are extended to academic institutions, youth organizations, and community leaders whose initiatives inspired the discussion on youth leadership and nation-building in *Viksit Bharat*. The author also acknowledges the valuable support of family members, colleagues, and well-wishers for their encouragement and motivation throughout the completion of this work.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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