

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 219
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

EFFORTS TO MAKE A 'VIKSIT BHARAT' BY 2047

219. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) the efforts made by Government to make 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 through foreign policy initiatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts by Government in the last three years have helped in the improvement of India's position as a power to reckon and make a Viksit Bharat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 219 FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING EFFORTS TO MAKE A 'VIKSIT BHARAT' BY 2047 ASKED BY SMT. SANGEETA YADAV

(a) to (d): In line with Prime Minister's vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047", India's foreign policy reflects its primary objectives of securing its national interests, including advancing our holistic national economic and technological development and ensuring well-being and progress of Indians living and working across the world.

Accordingly, various foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the Government are aligned with this objective. Over the years, Government has established and strengthened strategic partnerships with more than 30 countries across the Global South and North. Apart from strong bilateral partnerships, the Government has undertaken various foreign policy initiatives to strengthen regional and international cooperation. These include the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) initiative, Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) and the Link West Policy, among others.

India has also taken lead in developing initiatives to address specific contemporary challenges as well as to develop new avenues for enhancing our development needs, trade and connectivity. Some of these major initiatives include the International Solar Alliance, Global Biofuels Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Government has also taken a considered approach to signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) primarily with the aim to increase the bilateral trade through enlarging the scope of market access and the trade complementarities thereof. Since 2019, India has concluded Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) with Mauritius (February 2021); India-UAE CEPA (February 2022); India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (April 2022) and India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (March 2024). India is also currently negotiating FTAs with UK, EU, Australia, Peru, Sri Lanka and Oman as well as trade related issues with the US.

Technology partnerships are a critical component of our strategic partnership with many countries, including USA, EU and France, among others. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington DC on 13 February 2025, the two sides launched the U.S.-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology) initiative. With the European Union, the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) established in April 2022 provides the umbrella mechanism for enhancing bilateral technology partnerships, including in strategic technologies, digital governance, digital connectivity, clean and green technologies, as well as new and emerging technologies. Similarly, during the visit of Prime Minister to France in February 2025, technology collaboration was a major focus area of cooperation. Some of the major technology cooperation related outcomes during the visit included concluding of the India France Declaration on Artificial Intelligence (AI); Letter of Intent to establish the Indo-French Center for the Digital Sciences, and Agreement for hosting 10 Indian Startups at a French Start-up incubator Station. Similarly, a number of our national science and technology initiatives such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission and Atal Innovation Mission have strong international partnerships.

In addition, through India's participation in various multilateral and plurilateral groupings, India has been engaging partner countries on a wide range of contemporary global issues having a bearing on India's economic and security interests. This includes active participation at international organizations and institutions, including the UN and its various agencies, IMF, World Bank and other

international financial institutions, as well as intergovernmental groupings such as the G20, BRICS, SCO and Quad, among others.

Further, India has emerged as an important representative of Global South and developing countries through the initiative of Voice of Global South Summit, under which India has hosted three virtual summits with the participation of over 100 Global South countries in each Summit. India has a robust development partnership program with other developing countries. During the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit, Prime Minister put forward a proposal for a comprehensive four-fold Global Development Compact comprising four elements: Trade for development; Capacity building for sustainable growth; Technology sharing; and, Project specific concessional finance and grants.

The Government has also focused on an enhanced outreach of India-led initiatives, including Traditional Systems of Knowledge and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs). In recent months, some MoUs were signed for recognition of Indian Pharmacopeia. Moreover, several countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America have signed MoUs for India Stack, and UPI collaboration.

An important focus area for the Government is the continued expansion of global workplace access for which key initiatives have been undertaken, including the e-passport pilot projects that are underway in Bhubaneswar & Nagpur; operationalization of e-Migrate mobile application which is functional and available on government app store and on Google play store; and signing of Mobility Agreement has been undertaken with various countries.

In order to expand the diplomatic outreach of India, the Government has strengthened institutional capacity and diplomatic capabilities of the Ministry by the opening of new Indian Embassies in Albania, Gabon, Georgia, Latvia, Timor-Leste as well as new Indian Consulates in Marseille, Manchester, Belfast, Brisbane, Auckland and Barcelona, in recent months.

The Ministry has also partnered and facilitated international outreach of States in attracting investments. Our diplomatic Missions have also facilitated promotion of tourism and trade by our States.

These foreign policy initiatives are aimed at strengthening India's bilateral and multilateral diplomatic outreach as well as development partnerships with friendly countries while aligning with India's strategic interests and growth priorities to enable progress towards the vision of "Viksit Bharat@2047".
