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Viksit Bharat 2047: what the legal profession must contribute

India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 depends on faster justice, stronger firms and better-trained lawyers. A practical agenda.

Viksit Bharat 2047 sets a clear national goal: a developed India by the hundredth year of Independence. Discussion of that goal usually centres on manufacturing, infrastructure and technology. The legal system sits beneath all three.

Why law is central

A developed economy runs on trust between strangers. A lender in one State finances a factory in another. A foreign fund buys shares in a company it has never visited. A farmer sells to a buyer through a digital platform. Each of these depends on rules that are clear and disputes that end.

Five contributions the profession can make

1. Speed. With more than five crore cases pending across India's courts, delay is the heaviest cost the system imposes. Lawyers control more of this than is often admitted: fewer adjournments, tighter pleadings and readiness to settle.

2. Scale. India needs many more well-run firms, in many more cities. Growth should reach State capitals and industrial districts, not only the metros.

3. Skill. New areas of the economy, clean energy, semiconductors, data, space and digital finance, need lawyers who understand the industries they serve.

4. Standards. Clients here and abroad should be able to rely on common standards of governance, confidentiality and conflicts management.

5. Service to the world. India exports software and business services at scale. Legal services can follow, through arbitration seated in India and Indian firms advising on cross-border work.

What government can expect from the Bar

A constructive partner. The profession should bring data, practical proposals and a willingness to change its own habits. Reform of procedure works only when the lawyers who use it want it to.

What the Bar can ask of government

Timely appointments to courts and tribunals, investment in court infrastructure, and consultation before rules affecting the profession are changed.

The measure of success

By 2047 a commercial dispute in India should be resolved in a time that compares well with any major economy. A young person from any district should be able to build a legal career on merit. And Indian firms should be a familiar presence in the world's major commercial centres.

None of this is beyond reach. It needs the profession to organise itself around the national goal, and to be counted among the builders of it.

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