



WOMEN-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

India's growth is shifting, with women driving economic rise through workforce participation, entrepreneurship, and finance. Empowering them is key to **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Women Driving India's Economic Transformation

INDICATOR	2023-24
Female Workforce Participation	40.3% (22% in 2017-18)
Unemployment Rate	3.2% (5.6% in 2017-18)
Rural Female Employment Growth	96% (Compared to 2017-18)
Urban Female Employment Growth	43% (Compared to 2017-18)

Key Initiatives Driving Change

- ⌘ **Gender Budgets:** Rise of 429% from ₹0.85 lakh crore (2013-14) to ₹4.49 lakh crore (2025-26).
- ⌘ **Startup India:** 50% of DPIIT startups have women directors.
- ⌘ **PM SVANidhi:** 44% of street vendors benefitting are women.
- ⌘ **Lakshpati Didis:** 2 Cr women empowered via Namu Drone Didi.
- ⌘ **Women-led MSMEs:** Nearly doubled from **1 cr (2010-11)** to **1.92 cr (2023-24)**, creating **89 lakh jobs** for women (FY21-FY23).

Significance of Women-Led Development

- ⌘ **Leaders, Not Welfare Recipients:** Shifting women from dependence to driving change.
- ⌘ **Economic Growth:** Bridging gender gaps could increase GDP by 30%.
- ⌘ **Gender Equality:** Reduces stereotypes, India ranks 131st in Global Gender Gap Report 2025.
- ⌘ **Inclusive Growth:** Women's inclusion boosts productivity, innovation, and decision-making.

Challenges to Women-Led Development

- ⌘ **Social Constraints:** Deep-rooted patriarchy, early marriages, unpaid domestic work.
- ⌘ **Safety Issues:** High crime rate against women (51 cases/hour).
- ⌘ **Education & Skill Gaps:** Female literacy at 65.4% (2011 census) - below global avg.
- ⌘ **Underrepresentation in Governance:** Women's representation in Parliament is below the global average of 25%.
- ⌘ **Tech & Digital Exclusion:** Limited access to internet and digital tools.
- ⌘ **Workforce Barriers:** Unequal pay, limited representation in high-skilled sectors.

Suggestions for Mainstreaming Women in Economic Growth

- ⌘ **Childcare & Care Economy:** National Crèche Grid, paid maternity leave for informal sectors.
- ⌘ **Digital Inclusion:** Embed Digital Saksharta and PMGDISHA into infrastructure and rural internet projects.
- ⌘ **Representation & Governance:** Gender quotas in boards, panchayats, MSMEs.
- ⌘ **Workplace Safety:** Women's-friendly infrastructure and policies like ICCs under the Sexual Harassment Act, 2013.
- ⌘ **Cultural & Structural Change:** Zero-tolerance for violence and education on gender equality.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

India's **79th Independence Day** emphasizes women's vital role in the freedom struggle, fighting against British rule and social restrictions.

WOMAN	ROLE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE
Rani Laxmibai	Fought in the First War of Independence (1857) , resisted the Doctrine of Lapse
Rani Chennamma	Led the Kittur Rebellion (1824) against British for refusing to recognize her adopted son as heir

WOMAN	ROLE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE
Savitribai Phule	First female teacher in India , promoted girls' education, opposed child marriage, caste discrimination, and advocated widow remarriage
Sarojini Naidu	First Indian Woman President of INC (1925) , key in Salt March, Civil Disobedience, & QIM
Sucheta Kripalani	Active in Civil Disobedience and QIM , became India's first woman CM (UP, 1963)
Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay	Key role in AIWC , first woman to contest a legislative seat in Madras, & urged Gandhi to include women in Salt Satyagraha
Annie Besant	Launched Madras Home Rule League , first woman INC President in 1917.
Aruna Asaf Ali	Hoisted Congress flag during QIM , title of ' Heroine of 1942 '
Rani Gaidinliu	Led Heraka Movement (after Haipou Jadonang's execution), promoted Naga identity and resisted British rule.
Fatima Sheikh	Pioneer of girls' education , laid the foundation for women's empowerment .
Matangini Hazra (Gandhi Buri)	Led protests in QIM , martyred while holding the tricolour and chanting " Vande Mataram "
Bina Das	Attempted to assassinate Bengal Governor Stanley Jackson in 1932 , protested by wearing khadi, writing about banned literature, and distributing revolutionary materials
Pritilata Waddedar	Led Pahartali European Club attack (1932), embraced martyrdom to protest racial discrimination
Kalpana Datta	Participated in Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930)
Pandita Ramabai	Founded Sharada Sadan for widows, promoted women's education and suffrage
Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain	Feminist , established schools for Muslim girls in Kolkata and promoted gender equality; novella Sultana's Dream
Usha Mehta	Underground Congress Radio during QIM
Rukmini Devi Arundale	Revived and promoted Indian classical dance and arts
Kasturba Gandhi	Actively involved in civil disobedience , protests, and imprisonment with Mahatma Gandhi
Bhikaiji Cama	Saptarishi Flag designed by Bhikaji Cama, Vinayak Savarkar, and Shyamji Varma, it was the first Indian flag hoisted abroad in Stuttgart, Germany (22nd August 1907) at the International Socialist Congress
Aruna Roy (Modern Activist)	Key in enacting the Right to Information Act for transparency.

INDIA-FIJI RELATIONS

Fijian PM's 3-day visit: Held talks with Indian PM to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Agreements:

- ⌘ **Military Support:** India will provide **training, equipment, and capacity building** for Fiji's military; collaborate on **UN Peacekeeping, military medicine, cybersecurity, and [White Shipping Information Exchange](#)**.
- ⌘ **Healthcare:** MoU for a **100-bedded Super Specialty Hospital in Suva** - largest project undertaken by India under its **Grant-in-Aid Programme in the Pacific Region**.
 - ❖ Other agreements include **Jan Aushadhi** program, **Heal in India**, **telemedicine under e-Sanjeevani**.
- ⌘ **Other Areas:** Focus on **Hindi-Sanskrit studies, Girmitiyas recognition, sports, and student mobility**.
- ⌘ **Joint Vision:** Support for **India's UNSC membership, counter-terrorism, climate action, sustainable development, and South-South cooperation**.
 - ❖ Reinforces **[India's Act East Policy](#)** and **[Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative \(IPOI\)](#)** to counterbalance **China's influence** in the **[Pacific Island Countries \(PICs\)](#)**.
 - ❖ **Fijian PM** praised for leading the '**Ocean of Peace**' initiative

FIJI

- ↪ **Archipelago in the South Pacific, part of PICs**, located north of New Zealand, with 300+ islands, 100 inhabited.
- ↪ Known as the “**soft coral capital**.”
- ↪ Major economic driver: **sugarcane**.
- ↪ A **parliamentary democracy** with a **diverse population** including Indigenous Fijians, Indians, and Europeans.
- ↪ Home to the **Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple**, the largest **Hindu temple** in the Southern Hemisphere.



PROJECT 17A: INS

HIMGIRI & INS UDAYGIRI

INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri are the latest **P17A (Nilgiri-class) stealth frigates** in India's naval modernization.

- ⌘ **Enhanced stealth** design over **P17 (Shivalik)** class with advanced **weapon systems** and **radar**.
- ⌘ **Seven Ships under Project 17A**: **INS Nilgiri**, INS Udaygiri, INS Himgiri, INS Taragiri, INS Mahendragiri, INS Dunagiri, & INS Vindhyagiri.
- ⌘ **Project-17 Bravo (P-17B) frigates**, a follow-on to the Nilgiri-class, will include seven Next Generation frigates.
 - ❖ P-17B frigates will feature futuristic weapons, communication, and control systems, with **more indigenous content than the Nilgiri-class**.

TYPHOON KAJIKI

Typhoon Kajiki lashed both China and Vietnam; equivalent to **Category 2 storm** on [Saffir-Simpson scale](#).



INTEGRATED AIR DROP

TEST FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION

ISRO conducted its **first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-1)** to validate the **parachute-based deceleration system** for the **Crew Module (CM)** of the **Gaganyaan** mission.

- ⌘ The objective of the Gaganyaan mission is to **send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit (400 km) by 2027**.
- ⌘ Will place **India among the few nations with human spaceflight capability (US, Russia, China)**.
- ⌘ **Members shortlisted for the Mission**: Group captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, and Angad Pratap, and wing commander Shubanshu Shukla.
- ⌘ The mission will **utilize human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle, Crew Escape System, and Crew and Service Modules**.