

India's Superpower Dream: A 2047 Roadmap

Introduction

India's aspiration to become a superpower by 2047 is a multifaceted ambition, driven by economic potential and strategic positioning. This report examines India's economic trajectory, highlighting the necessity of inclusive growth alongside rapid GDP expansion. It analyzes India's strategic autonomy in a multipolar world, particularly its delicate balancing act between the US and China. The report further explores the internal and external challenges India faces, from social inequalities to geopolitical tensions. Finally, it assesses the key factors supporting India's ascent, including demographic advantages and strategic investments, while acknowledging the obstacles that must be overcome.

India's aspiration to achieve superpower status by 2047 is a complex undertaking, contingent on sustained economic growth, strategic navigation of the geopolitical landscape, and inclusive development. While some projections suggest India could rival the US in economic strength by 2050 [2], achieving high-income status requires a potentially unsustainable annual GDP per capita growth rate [1]. India's economic transformation is driven by increased trust in entrepreneurs, proactive policy measures, and infrastructure expansion [1, 4]. Sustaining rapid growth necessitates prioritizing fairness and inclusion, ensuring the benefits reach the poorest segments of society [2].

India's strategic autonomy is being tested as tensions rise, particularly between the United States and China in the Indo-Pacific region [1]. India's role in BRICS and its growing partnership with the United States highlight this balancing act [1]. India's ambition to be recognized as a great power is evident in its pursuit of a multipolar world and a multipolar Asia [5]. Sustained economic growth of 7 percent or higher is seen as a critical factor in transforming India into a great power [5].

India faces major developmental challenges, including entrenched caste divisions and rising wealth inequalities [4]. Global uncertainties, such as heightened global trade policy uncertainty and financial sector volatility, are expected to negatively impact domestic investment and global growth [5]. India must address critical developmental issues, including widespread poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequalities rooted in the caste system [1, 2]. Low adult literacy rates

and the need for a more educated workforce pose a significant hurdle to sustained economic growth [3].

Sustaining rapid economic growth requires efficient resource utilization, especially in energy [3]. India's heavy reliance on oil and gas imports makes it vulnerable to resource scarcity [3]. Territorial disputes, particularly the conflict over Kashmir, exacerbate tensions and create a two-front challenge for India [5]. China's growing influence in the region further complicates India's strategic environment [5]. Overcoming challenges in technology and infrastructure is crucial for India's superpower ambitions [2].

India's large and youthful population presents a significant demographic dividend, offering a substantial advantage in knowledge-based industries [1, 5]. Economic reforms have fostered a business-friendly environment, attracting foreign investment and spurring growth [1, 4]. Strategic investments in infrastructure have improved connectivity and reduced transportation costs, further facilitating economic activity [4]. Internal challenges, such as the rise of Hindutva politics and policies perceived as targeting India's Muslim minority, have strained relationships with OIC nations [3].

India's rise is underpinned by factors such as a large working-age population, expanding digital infrastructure, and ongoing economic reforms [1]. India is investing heavily in infrastructure, a strategy that proved successful for China [4]. India's strategic location, extensive coastline, and historical legacy contribute to its global influence [3]. Significant investments in military modernization enhance India's ability to project power regionally and beyond [3]. India faces opposition from various countries, including Pakistan and potentially some Western nations, who may not favor India becoming a superpower [1].

Conclusion

India's journey to superpower status by 2047 is a complex interplay of ambition and reality. As detailed, sustained economic growth, fueled by strategic investments and a favorable demographic dividend, is crucial.

However, internal challenges like social inequalities and strained international relations, particularly with OIC nations, pose significant hurdles. Navigating a multipolar world while maintaining strategic autonomy, especially concerning China and Russia, is also vital. Ultimately, India's success hinges on addressing these multifaceted

challenges while leveraging its strengths in technology, manufacturing, and strategic partnerships to realize its superpower aspirations.

Sources

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