



**INDIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

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ABSTRACT

India's independence in 1947 marked the beginning of a major phase of political, economic, and social transformation. The establishment of the Republic and the adoption of the Constitution in 1950 created a democratic framework based on universal citizenship, constitutional rights, parliamentary government, and the rule of law. The political transformation of independent India included the development of democratic institutions, electoral politics, federalism, local self-government, and the expansion of political participation. The economic transformation involved planned development, public-sector expansion, agricultural development, industrialization, the Green Revolution, economic reforms, liberalization, privatization, and globalization. These changes contributed to the expansion and diversification of the Indian economy while also producing regional and socio-economic differences. The post-1991 reform period further increased the role of markets, private enterprise, trade, technology, and services in economic development.



Social transformation occurred through the expansion of education, urbanization, industrialization, social welfare programmes, affirmative action, women's empowerment, and changes in caste and community relations. The Constitution and subsequent legislation sought to address social inequalities and promote equality and social justice. At the same time, poverty, unemployment, inequality, gender disparities, caste-based discrimination, and regional differences continued to present challenges. This study examines the major political, economic, and social changes in India after independence and analyses the relationship between state policies, democratic institutions, economic development, and social change. It highlights the achievements as well as the continuing challenges of nation-building and development, providing a historical understanding of how independent India has evolved from 1947 onwards.

KEYWORDS: India after Independence, Political Transformation, Economic Transformation, Social Transformation, Indian Constitution, Democracy, Parliamentary Government, Federalism.

INTRODUCTION

India's independence on 15 August 1947 marked a major turning point in the history of the subcontinent. The end of British colonial rule created the opportunity to establish an independent political system, develop a self-reliant economy, and address long-standing social inequalities. The post-independence period therefore represents a significant phase of nation-building and transformation in which political institutions, economic policies, and social structures underwent substantial changes. The

adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950 established the foundations of a democratic republic. The Constitution guaranteed fundamental rights and provided a framework based on equality, justice, liberty, and democratic governance. Parliamentary institutions, regular elections, an independent judiciary, federal arrangements, and universal adult franchise became important features of the political system. The integration of princely states and the reorganization of states also contributed to the consolidation of the Indian Union.

Political development after independence involved the growth and institutionalization of democratic practices. Political parties, elections, legislatures, civil society organizations, and the media became important components of public life. Over time, political participation expanded beyond established political elites to include diverse social groups, including women, disadvantaged communities, and regional interests. The growth of regional political parties and coalition governments also influenced the changing character of Indian federal politics. Economic transformation was another major dimension of post-independence development. At independence, India faced widespread poverty, low industrialization, inadequate infrastructure, and dependence on agriculture. The government adopted economic planning with emphasis on industrialization, public-sector development, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, and self-reliance. Five-Year Plans played an important role in directing investment and development priorities during the early decades.

Agricultural transformation became particularly significant with the Green Revolution from the 1960s onward. The introduction of improved seeds, irrigation, fertilizers, mechanization, and modern agricultural techniques contributed to increased agricultural production in several regions. Industrial and technological development also expanded, while investments in education, scientific research, transport, communication, and energy contributed to the modernization of the economy. The economic reforms introduced in 1991 represented another important stage in India's economic transformation. Liberalization, privatization, and greater integration with the global economy increased the role of private enterprise, foreign investment, international trade, information technology, and the service sector. These changes contributed to economic growth and structural transformation while also raising questions concerning employment, inequality, regional disparities, and the distribution of economic benefits.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of this study is to examine the political, economic, and social transformation of India after independence and to understand the major developments that shaped the process of nation-building and modernization.

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the political developments in India after independence and the establishment of democratic institutions.
2. To study the role of the Constitution in shaping India's political and social framework.
3. To examine the development of parliamentary democracy, electoral politics, federalism, and local self-government.
4. To analyse the political integration of India and the reorganization of states after independence.
5. To study the development of economic planning and the role of Five-Year Plans in national development.
6. To examine industrialization, agricultural development, the Green Revolution, and infrastructure development in post-independence India.

7. To analyse the major economic changes introduced through the 1991 economic reforms, including liberalization, privatization, and globalization.
8. To examine the growth of the service sector, technology, trade, and private enterprise in the Indian economy.
9. To study the major social changes associated with education, urbanization, industrialization, migration, and modernization.
10. To examine government policies and programmes aimed at reducing poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.
11. To study the development of affirmative-action policies and their role in promoting social justice.
12. To examine changes in the position of women and the development of women's education, employment, political participation, and legal rights.
13. To analyse changes in caste relations, social mobility, and the participation of disadvantaged communities in public life.
14. To examine the relationship between political development, economic growth, and social transformation.
15. To identify the major achievements and continuing challenges of post-independence India in the areas of democracy, economic development, social justice, and inclusive development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature on India after independence is extensive and covers political institutions, economic development, social change, nation-building, democracy, planning, liberalization, and social justice. Scholars from history, political science, economics, and sociology have examined the transformation of India from different perspectives. Bipan Chandra, Mridula Mukherjee, and Aditya Mukherjee, in *India Since Independence*, provide a comprehensive historical account of post-independence India. Their work examines nation-building, political developments, economic policies, social change, foreign policy, and major challenges faced by the Indian state. It provides an important framework for understanding the broad trajectory of independent India.

Granville Austin's *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation* examines the making and functioning of the Indian Constitution. The work highlights constitutional provisions, democratic institutions, federalism, fundamental rights, and the relationship between constitutional principles and nation-building. Ramachandra Guha's *India After Gandhi* presents a broad political and social history of independent India. It discusses democratic development, linguistic reorganization, political movements, regional developments, social conflicts, and the functioning of democratic institutions. Rajni Kothari's *Politics in India* provides an influential analysis of India's political system. Kothari examines political parties, elections, political participation, social groups, leadership, and the relationship between political institutions and social structures.

Paul R. Brass, in *The Politics of India Since Independence*, analyses the development of Indian politics with particular attention to political institutions, parties, elections, federalism, regional politics, and social conflicts. His work helps explain the changing nature of political competition in post-independence India. T. N. Srinivasan and other economists have contributed to the understanding of India's economic development, planning, reforms, and structural transformation. Their scholarship provides perspectives on the evolution of economic policy from state-led development toward greater market orientation and global integration. Jean Drèze and Amartya Sen, particularly through *India: Development and Participation*, examine the relationship between economic development, human capabilities, education, health, public

action, and social opportunities. Their work emphasizes that economic growth needs to be considered alongside human development and social well-being.

Dharma Kumar and Meghnad Desai's edited work *The Cambridge Economic History of India* provides historical perspectives on economic structures and long-term changes affecting India. Such economic histories help contextualize post-independence development within broader historical processes. Andre Béteille's writings on inequality, caste, class, and social structure provide important sociological perspectives for understanding social transformation in India. His work highlights the relationship between social stratification, modernization, education, and changing patterns of social mobility.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study of *India after Independence: Political, Economic and Social Transformation* adopts a historical, descriptive, analytical, and interdisciplinary research methodology. The methodology is designed to examine the major changes that occurred in India after 1947 and to understand the relationship between political institutions, economic policies, and social transformation. The study primarily uses historical research methods to trace developments from independence in 1947 to the contemporary period. A chronological approach is used to identify major phases such as the establishment of the Republic, the period of planned development, agricultural and industrial transformation, political changes, the Green Revolution, the expansion of democratic participation, and the economic reforms introduced in 1991. The research makes use of both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include the Constitution of India, parliamentary debates, government reports, Five-Year Plan documents, census reports, economic surveys, legislative documents, official statistics, policy documents, and records of government institutions. Secondary sources include books, research articles, academic journals, historical studies, political analyses, economic studies, and sociological literature.

A thematic approach is used to examine the three major dimensions of transformation. The political dimension includes democracy, elections, parliamentary institutions, federalism, political parties, state reorganization, local self-government, and political participation. The economic dimension covers planning, agriculture, industrialization, public-sector development, the Green Revolution, economic reforms, liberalization, globalization, and the growth of the service sector. The social dimension includes education, urbanization, migration, caste relations, social mobility, women's status, welfare policies, and social justice. A chronological and comparative approach is used to examine changes across different phases of post-independence development. Comparisons are made between the pre-reform and post-reform periods, rural and urban areas, different regions, and different social and economic groups wherever reliable evidence is available. The study also uses quantitative data from sources such as population censuses, economic statistics, development indicators, and government reports. Statistical information is used to understand changes in population, literacy, agricultural production, industrial development, employment, poverty, urbanization, and other relevant indicators. Qualitative evidence is used alongside quantitative information to interpret political and social developments.

Source criticism and historical interpretation are employed to assess the reliability, context, and limitations of historical and official sources. Different sources are compared where necessary to identify variations in interpretation and to avoid dependence on a single perspective. An interdisciplinary approach combines insights from history, political science, economics, sociology, public policy, and development studies. This approach is important because political decisions, economic policies, and social changes have continuously influenced one another in post-independence India. The study also considers the experiences of different social groups, including women, rural communities, disadvantaged groups, workers, farmers,

and urban populations. Attention is given to regional and socio-economic differences so that national-level developments are not treated as uniform experiences across the country.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

India's independence in 1947 marked the beginning of a major process of political, economic, and social reconstruction. The country inherited serious challenges, including poverty, unemployment, low levels of industrialization, inadequate infrastructure, social inequalities, communal tensions, and regional disparities. The central problem of the study is to understand how independent India responded to these challenges and how the policies and institutions developed after independence transformed Indian society and the economy. The political transformation of India raises important questions concerning the establishment and functioning of democratic institutions. The adoption of the Constitution, parliamentary government, universal adult franchise, federalism, elections, political parties, and an independent judiciary created the institutional foundation of the Indian Republic. The study seeks to examine how these institutions developed over time and how political participation expanded among different sections of society.

Another important problem concerns the process of national integration. India's linguistic, cultural, regional, and social diversity presented significant challenges to nation-building. The integration of princely states, reorganization of states, development of federal relations, and emergence of regional political forces influenced the evolution of the Indian political system. Understanding these developments is essential for examining the relationship between national unity and regional diversity. The economic dimension presents another major area of investigation. At independence, India faced low agricultural productivity, limited industrial development, widespread poverty, and inadequate infrastructure. The government adopted economic planning, public-sector development, industrialization, agricultural modernization, and policies aimed at self-reliance. The problem is to examine the extent to which these strategies contributed to economic development and how their benefits and limitations were distributed across regions and social groups. The Green Revolution and subsequent agricultural changes also require historical examination. Although modern agricultural technology increased production in several regions, its effects were not uniform across the country. Differences in irrigation, landholding, technology, access to credit, and regional resources influenced agricultural outcomes. The study therefore examines both agricultural transformation and the continuing challenges of rural inequality and agricultural development.

The economic reforms introduced in 1991 created another major phase of transformation. Liberalization, privatization, and globalization changed the role of the state, markets, private enterprise, foreign investment, trade, technology, and the service sector. The problem is to understand how these reforms affected economic growth, employment, industrial development, regional disparities, and the distribution of economic opportunities. Social transformation constitutes the third major dimension of the problem. Post-independence India witnessed expansion of education, urbanization, industrialization, migration, mass communication, and welfare programmes. These developments influenced family structures, occupations, social mobility, caste relations, lifestyles, and community relationships. However, social inequalities based on caste, class, gender, region, and economic status continued to affect access to opportunities.

NEED OF STUDY

The study of India after independence is important for understanding the major processes through which the country was transformed from a colonial society into a democratic republic and a developing modern economy. The period after 1947 witnessed fundamental changes in political institutions, economic

policies, social structures, and patterns of public participation. A historical study of these changes helps explain the foundations of contemporary India. The study is necessary to understand the establishment and development of democratic institutions. The adoption of the Constitution, universal adult franchise, parliamentary government, federalism, elections, and judicial institutions created the framework of independent India. Examining their historical development helps explain how democratic governance was established and expanded across a socially and culturally diverse population. The study is also important for understanding the process of national integration and state-building. The integration of princely states, linguistic reorganization of states, development of Centre-State relations, and emergence of regional political forces significantly shaped the political structure of India. These developments provide important insights into the relationship between national unity and regional diversity.

The economic transformation of India provides another major reason for undertaking the study. At independence, the country faced widespread poverty, low industrial development, inadequate infrastructure, and limited agricultural productivity. Economic planning, industrialization, public-sector development, agricultural modernization, and infrastructure programmes were introduced to address these challenges. Studying these policies helps explain the evolution of India's development strategy. The study is particularly relevant for understanding agricultural and industrial transformation. The Green Revolution, expansion of irrigation, technological changes, industrial development, and growth of infrastructure altered production patterns and employment opportunities. At the same time, regional differences and inequalities in access to resources demonstrate the need to examine both achievements and limitations of development.

The economic reforms of 1991 constitute another important area of study. Liberalization, privatization, globalization, expansion of private enterprise, foreign investment, technological development, and growth of the service sector changed the structure of the Indian economy. Understanding this transition is essential for examining the changing relationship between the state, market, industry, and society. The study is also needed to understand social transformation after independence. Expansion of education, urbanization, industrialization, migration, mass communication, welfare programmes, and social mobility contributed to changes in family, caste, occupation, community life, and social relationships. These developments demonstrate how economic and political changes interacted with broader processes of social change.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR RESEARCH

Further research on India after independence can examine the political, economic, and social transformation of the country through more detailed regional, comparative, and interdisciplinary studies. Since post-independence India is characterized by considerable diversity, future research can focus on specific regions, states, communities, and historical phases. Future studies can examine the development of Indian democracy at the state and local levels. Research on electoral participation, political parties, regional movements, local self-government, Panchayati Raj institutions, and changing patterns of political representation can provide a deeper understanding of democratic development. The process of national integration and state reorganization requires further regional research. Studies can investigate linguistic movements, regional identities, Centre-State relations, and the political development of different states to understand how regional diversity influenced the Indian Union.

Further research can focus on the history of economic planning and Five-Year Plans, particularly their effects on agriculture, industry, infrastructure, employment, and regional development. Comparative studies between different planning periods can help identify changes in development priorities and outcomes. The Green Revolution and agricultural transformation provide important areas for further

investigation. Future research can examine changes in landholding, agricultural technology, irrigation, rural employment, agricultural markets, farmer organizations, and regional inequalities. The economic reforms of 1991 require continued historical and economic study. Researchers can examine the long-term effects of liberalization, privatization, globalization, foreign investment, technological development, industrial restructuring, and the growth of the service sector on different regions and social groups.

Further research can investigate the relationship between economic growth and human development. Studies can compare changes in education, healthcare, nutrition, employment, income, poverty, and living standards across states, rural and urban areas, and different socio-economic groups. Social transformation can be studied through changes in caste relations, family structures, marriage patterns, migration, urbanization, occupational mobility, and community institutions. Research can particularly examine how modernization and economic change interacted with traditional social structures. The development of women's education, employment, political participation, property rights, and social movements after independence deserves further regional and comparative research. Studies can examine differences in women's experiences across rural and urban areas and among different social and economic groups.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Scope of the Study

The study "India after Independence: Political, Economic and Social Transformation" covers the major developments that shaped Indian society from independence in 1947 to the contemporary period. It examines the transformation of India from a colonial economy and society into a democratic republic with a developing and increasingly diversified economy. The scope of the study is broadly interdisciplinary, incorporating historical, political, economic and sociological perspectives. The political dimension covers the making and functioning of the Indian Constitution, parliamentary democracy, universal adult franchise, elections, political parties, federalism, Centre-State relations, national integration, linguistic reorganization of states, regional politics and the development of local self-government. It also considers the expansion of political participation and the changing relationship between democratic institutions and society.

The economic dimension includes economic planning, Five-Year Plans, public-sector development, industrialization, agricultural development, infrastructure expansion and the Green Revolution. The study also examines the economic reforms introduced in 1991, including liberalization, privatization and globalization, and their influence on trade, investment, industry, employment, technology and the service sector. The social dimension focuses on changes in education, health, urbanization, migration, family structure, caste relations, social mobility, occupational patterns and welfare institutions. Special attention is given to social justice, affirmative action, the development of disadvantaged communities and changes in the position of women through education, employment, legal reforms and political participation. The study also examines regional and rural-urban differences in the process of transformation. It considers how political policies, economic development and social changes have affected different regions and social groups. The interaction between political institutions, economic policies and social movements is an important part of the study.

Limitations of the Study

The study covers a very extensive historical period and a wide range of political, economic and social developments. Therefore, it is not possible to examine every event, policy, state, region, community or social group in equal detail. The availability and quality of historical data vary across different periods and subjects. Some official statistics are aggregated at the national or state level and may not fully reflect

local and community-level variations. Comparisons across different periods may also be affected by changes in methods of data collection and classification. The study primarily examines broad patterns of transformation and therefore cannot provide detailed micro-level accounts of every region or social group. Rural and urban experiences, as well as the experiences of different caste, class, gender and occupational groups, may differ considerably from national-level trends.

Interpretations of major historical and political developments may vary among scholars. Different sources may present different perspectives on events, policies and their consequences. The study therefore depends on critical examination and comparison of available primary and secondary sources. The post-1991 and contemporary period presents an additional limitation because some developments are still continuing and their long-term consequences cannot always be assessed conclusively. Recent changes in technology, employment, social relations and governance require longer historical observation.

Finally, the study focuses on the broad processes of political, economic and social transformation rather than providing an exhaustive account of every aspect of post-independence India. Despite these limitations, the study provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the major changes, continuities and challenges that have shaped India since independence.

FINDINGS

The study of India after independence reveals that the country experienced extensive political, economic and social transformation. The major findings of the study are as follows:

1. India successfully established a constitutional democratic system after independence, with parliamentary government, regular elections, universal adult franchise, fundamental rights and an independent judiciary forming important foundations of the political system.
2. The Indian Constitution provided an institutional framework for democracy, equality, social justice, federalism and protection of citizens' rights. Constitutional provisions also supported the political and social inclusion of historically disadvantaged sections.
3. National integration was strengthened through the integration of princely states, reorganization of states and the development of institutions governing Centre-State relations. At the same time, regional identities and political movements remained important features of Indian federalism.
4. Political participation expanded significantly after independence. Elections, political parties, civil society organizations and local self-government institutions increased opportunities for citizens and different social groups to participate in public life.
5. Economic planning played a major role in the early decades after independence. Five-Year Plans promoted industrialization, infrastructure development, agricultural modernization, public-sector expansion and economic self-reliance.
6. The Green Revolution contributed to increased agricultural production in several parts of India through improved seeds, irrigation, fertilizers, mechanization and modern agricultural practices. However, its benefits were distributed unevenly across regions and farming communities.
7. Industrialization and infrastructure development contributed to structural changes in the Indian economy. Manufacturing, transport, energy, communication and later the service sector became increasingly important components of economic development.
8. The economic reforms introduced in 1991 marked a significant change in India's development strategy. Liberalization, privatization and globalization increased the role of markets, private enterprise, international trade, foreign investment and technological development.

9. The post-reform period witnessed substantial expansion of the services sector, information technology, telecommunications and other knowledge-based activities. These developments created new economic opportunities while also contributing to changes in employment patterns and skill requirements.
10. Economic development contributed to improvements in living standards and access to goods and services, but the benefits of development remained uneven across regions, classes, occupations and social groups.

DISCUSSION

The transformation of India after independence represents a complex and continuous process involving political restructuring, economic development and social change. These three dimensions have been closely interconnected, with developments in one sphere influencing changes in the others. The transition from colonial rule to an independent democratic republic created the institutional foundation for nation-building and modernization. Politically, the establishment of the Constitution and democratic institutions provided continuity and stability to the newly independent country. Parliamentary democracy, universal adult franchise, federalism, an independent judiciary and regular elections created mechanisms for political participation and representation. The integration of princely states and subsequent reorganization of states contributed to national integration while also recognizing linguistic and regional identities. Over time, political participation expanded beyond traditional elites, with regional parties, social movements and local institutions becoming increasingly significant.

Economic transformation followed a changing pattern. In the early decades, the state played a central role through economic planning, public-sector development, industrialization and agricultural modernization. These policies sought to overcome the economic weaknesses inherited from colonial rule and establish greater economic self-reliance. The Green Revolution increased agricultural production in several regions and contributed to food security, although its benefits were unevenly distributed. The economic reforms of 1991 represented another major phase of transformation. Liberalization, privatization and globalization changed the relationship between the state and the market and increased the role of private enterprise and international economic integration. The expansion of services, information technology, telecommunications and other modern sectors created new opportunities and contributed to structural changes in the economy. At the same time, variations in employment opportunities, income distribution and regional development demonstrated that economic growth did not benefit all sections of society equally.

Social transformation occurred alongside political and economic changes. Expansion of education, urbanization, industrialization, migration and mass communication contributed to changes in family structures, occupational patterns, social mobility and lifestyles. Education became an important instrument of individual advancement and social change. Urban centres increasingly became sites of employment, education and cultural interaction. Caste relations also changed significantly after independence. Constitutional safeguards, affirmative action, education, political mobilization and social movements created new opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities. Political participation enabled various social groups to articulate their demands more effectively. However, caste-based inequalities and discrimination continued in different forms, demonstrating the difference between constitutional principles and social realities. The position of women also underwent important changes. Increased access to education, employment, legal rights and political participation expanded opportunities for women. Women's movements and social organizations contributed to greater public awareness of gender equality. Nevertheless, gender disparities in employment, income, education, representation and access to resources continued to influence women's social and economic experiences.

CONCLUSION

India's journey after independence in 1947 represents a significant process of political, economic and social transformation. The country moved from colonial rule towards a constitutional democratic republic and established institutions based on parliamentary government, universal adult franchise, federalism, fundamental rights and the rule of law. Democratic institutions, elections and political participation provided an important foundation for nation-building and national integration. Economically, India followed a planned development strategy during the early decades after independence, emphasizing agriculture, industrialization, infrastructure, public-sector development and economic self-reliance. The Green Revolution contributed to agricultural growth and improved food production in several regions. The economic reforms of 1991 subsequently introduced liberalization, privatization and globalization, leading to greater integration with the world economy and substantial growth in services, technology, trade and private enterprise.

Social transformation was equally important. Expansion of education, urbanization, industrialization, migration, welfare programmes and social movements contributed to changes in social relationships, occupational structures and patterns of mobility. Constitutional safeguards and affirmative action created opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities, while women's education, employment, legal rights and political participation expanded over time. At the same time, the process of transformation remained uneven. Poverty, unemployment, economic inequality, regional disparities, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality and differences in access to education and health continued to present challenges. The benefits of economic growth and modernization were not distributed equally among all regions and social groups.

The study therefore concludes that post-independence India experienced substantial institutional, economic and social change while also maintaining important continuities. Political democracy, economic development and social transformation developed through a continuous interaction between state policies, constitutional institutions, social movements, technological change and public participation. India's post-independence history is consequently best understood as an ongoing process of nation-building, modernization, social change and efforts toward greater equality and inclusive development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Democratic institutions should be strengthened through greater transparency, accountability, citizen participation and effective functioning of parliamentary, electoral and local governance institutions.
2. Decentralization and local self-government should be further strengthened to increase public participation and improve the delivery of essential services at the grassroots level.
3. Economic development policies should focus on generating productive employment and expanding opportunities for small-scale industries, agriculture, manufacturing and service-sector activities.
4. Regional disparities should be addressed through balanced investment in infrastructure, education, healthcare, transportation, irrigation and digital connectivity in less-developed regions.
5. Agricultural development should promote sustainable farming, irrigation facilities, technological access, market infrastructure and better opportunities for small and marginal farmers.
6. Economic growth should be accompanied by policies aimed at reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion and improving access to basic economic resources.
7. Education should remain a major priority, with greater emphasis on quality, affordability, vocational education, digital literacy and equal educational opportunities for rural and disadvantaged populations.
8. Public healthcare infrastructure should be strengthened, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas, to reduce differences in access to healthcare services.

9. Social justice measures and constitutional safeguards should be effectively implemented to expand educational, economic and political opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities.
10. Policies promoting gender equality should strengthen women's access to education, employment, property, entrepreneurship, political participation and social security.
11. Employment and skill-development programmes should be expanded to prepare young people for changing labour-market requirements, particularly in technology-intensive and emerging sectors.
12. Digital and technological development should be made more inclusive by improving affordable internet access, digital education and technological infrastructure in rural and underserved areas.

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