

A STUDY ON ROLE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN MISSION VIKSIT BHARAT @2047

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Abstract:



As India moves towards its 100th independence anniversary in 2047, the ambitious vision and mission of "Viksit Bharat @2047" serves as a plan for transforming the nation into a developed, inclusive, and sustainable global power. While the government plays a key role in this process, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) acts as an important partner in achieving this mission. It connects corporate efforts with national goals for fair development and sustainability.

As per Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013, CSR is not just a box to check for businesses in India; it offers a chance to contribute meaningfully to social and environmental progress. With India aiming for sustainable growth through initiatives like "Make in India," "Digital India," and "Atmanirbhar Bharat," CSR can speed up progress by tackling issues in education, healthcare, rural development, and environmental sustainability.

The primary objective of this paper is to study the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in mission Viksit Bharat @2047 with the secondary objectives to examine the top most Companies and states contributing to CSR activities. Further, we will analyze segment wise CSR Expenditure according to Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. Evaluation of case studies may help to predict the future of CSR.

The current study is qualitative and descriptive in nature and is primarily based on secondary data.

This paper highlights that as India aims to be a global leader by 2047, CSR is a cornerstone in realizing the vision. By incorporating social, economic, and environmental goals into their business plans, companies can reach the mission of Viksit Bharat@2047 and ensure a brighter and fairer future for all citizens.

Introduction:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's constitutional vision and leadership, laid the foundation for social responsibility and sustainable development. India's centenary of independence in 2047 marks a pivotal moment in its development journey. Mission Viksit Bharat @2047

envision a future where India is a developed nation—economically robust, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. Achieving Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision requires collaborative efforts across Government, civil society, and the private sector. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as mandated by the Companies Act, 2013, emerges as a strategic tool for businesses to contribute meaningfully to national development.

The mission outlines a road-map for India to become:

- A \$30 trillion economy
- A global leader in innovation and manufacturing
- A society with universal access to quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure
- A nation committed to sustainability and climate resilience

CSR's most important contributions in Mission Viksit Bharat @2047 is economic inclusion i.e empowering and supporting marginalized communities and fostering national growth, economic development and sustainability. It has become a central pillar of India's corporate governance framework.

One of CSR's most important contributions is bridging social and economic disparities. Through CSR programs, companies can offer access to quality education, vocational training, and job opportunities to underprivileged groups. Empowering young people ties directly into India's demographic advantage, creating a skilled workforce that drives economic growth. Investing in basic healthcare infrastructure, maternal and child health programs, and digital health solutions can lead to healthier communities. Additionally, CSR encourages community involvement and builds partnerships among corporations, NGOs, and government entities, creating a united force for social change. This teamwork strengthens the impact of national programs like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Skill India.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India is enforced from April 2014, is legally mandated for companies meeting certain financial thresholds (as mentioned in below Table 1) to spend at least 2% of their average net profits of the last three financial years on CSR - socially impactful initiatives. These mainly include education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, rural development, cultural heritage, etc, as per Schedule VII of Companies Act, 2013 (as mentioned in below Table 2).

Over the years, CSR has evolved from philanthropy to a strategic approach that aligns business goals with societal needs. Governance around CSR has also improved. Companies who is spending more than Rs. 50 Lacs is mandated to form a CSR committee in their organization, comprising of at least three directors including one independent director.

Table 1: CSR Applicability under Section 135(1) of Companies Act, 2013

Turnover	• Rs. 1000 Crore or more
Net Worth	• Rs. 500 Crore or more
Net Profit	• Rs. 5 Crore or more

Table 2 : Schecule VII of Companies Act, 2013

SCHEDULE VII – AREAS FOR CSR SPEND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ERADICATING HUNGER, POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION. PROMOTING HEALTHCARE AND SANITATION• PROMOTING EDUCATION INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING• PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY, EMPOWERING WOMEN, OLD AGE HOMES• ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGICAL BALANCE• PROTECTION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE, ART AND CULTURE• BENEFITS OF ARMED FORCE VETERANS, WAR WIDOWS• PROMOTE RURAL SPORTS, PARALYMPIC AND OLYMPIC SPORTS• CONTRIBUTION TO PM RELIEF FUND, PM CARES FUND• CONTRIBUTION TO INCUBATORS OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS• RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Corporate Social Responsibility excludes from its definition:

CSR does not include activities undertaken in the normal course of business, activities solely benefiting employees, activities outside India (except for specific sports training), contributions to political parties, or activities fulfilling statutory obligations. The below mentioned Table 3 will clarify it in more detail:

Table 3 : Exclusions of Activities from CSR Definition



LITERATURE REVIEW

Gyanendra Yadav and Dr. Divya Pal (2025) in their research paper entitled “Current Status of CSR in India : Challenges and Opportunities for Viksit Bharat @2047”, they observed that the current state of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India presents several challenges, including inefficiencies in certain activities like tree plantations, kitchen gardening, and training programs, which are often prone to data manipulation and over-reporting. These activities frequently fail to generate significant impact, as companies tend to overstate their effectiveness. The lack of detailed beneficiary information and inconsistency in annual reports further undermine the transparency and accountability of CSR initiatives. These issues hinder the potential of CSR to contribute meaningfully to national development and long-term sustainability.

Sushma A R (2025) in their research paper entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility and Nation-Building: Contributions of leading Indian Companies towards Viksit Bharat (2019–2023)”, they observed that Indian companies contributions not only address immediate social challenges such as health crises and education gaps but also focus on long-term sustainable development through skill enhancement, digital inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Collectively, these efforts signify a strong corporate commitment to inclusive growth, poverty alleviation, and capacity building, positioning CSR as a pivotal force in India's socio-economic transformation.

Dr. Pranav Umesh and Prof. N Sivakumar (2025) in their research paper entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility for SDG4 - Inclusive and Equitable Education for India 2047”, they observed the facilitation of SDG 4 through CSR initiatives of corporates. To achieve the ‘Viksit Bharat 2047’, corporations have a major role to play. CSR initiatives of

companies provide a proper channel through which with SDGs can be facilitated leading to vision of India 2047.

Shradha Pal and Dr. Divya Pal (2025) in their research paper entitled “The Role of Corporate Social Responsibility in Women’s Health and Empowerment in India”, they observed CSR has played a vital role in promoting women's health and empowerment in India, contributing significantly to SDG 3, SDG 5, and SDG 8. Corporate interventions in healthcare, sanitation, education, and economic empowerment have improved the lives of millions of women, which are essential for India’s development under the Viksit Bharat @2047. By strategically investing in healthcare, education, economic opportunities, and safety measures, CSR initiatives can create an accessibility gaps and sustainability need to be addressed to maximize impact.

Swapnil Gupta (2025) in their research paper entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals for a Developed India @2047” they observed the transformative potential of CSR and SDG alignment in empowering MSMEs to significantly contribute to India's Developed India 2047 vision. Data analysis demonstrates how strategic CSR activities promote not only business growth but also social and environmental well-being. Findings reveal positive relationships between CSR spending and profitability, employee retention, and brand reputation. Future research could delve into long-term impacts and cross-national comparisons to deepen the understanding of CSR’s enduring benefits within the MSME sector.

These literature review clears that CSR activities by corporate plays a crucial and very eminent role in contributing towards mission Viksit Bharat @2047 with several challenges and development too with a thought of long-term sustainable development and to reach \$30 trillion economy.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this paper is to study the role and impact of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in mission Viksit Bharat @2047. The secondary objectives are:

- i) To examine the top most Companies contributing to CSR activities (Table 4).
- ii) To identify the states spending most in CSR activities (Table 5).
- iii) To Study of Segment wise CSR Expenditure (Table 6) which will give clear picture of which activities of Schedule VII is most considered for CSR Activities.

iv) By evaluating case studies, we will be able to know the sectors in which corporates are more funding and doing CSR activities and how it impacts the society as a whole and will lead towards mission Viksit Bharat @2047.

v) To identify Future of CSR.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current study is qualitative and descriptive in nature and is primarily based on secondary data. Secondary data will include existing academic literature like existing studies, theories and framework, Company reports, news articles, websites and published data of CSR analyzing media coverage for insights into public perception and corporate actions. Further Case study analysis will be conducted to check the impact of CSR activities and its vision.

FINDINGS: ROLE AND IMPACT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) IN MISSION VIKSIT BHARAT @2047

I. CSR as a Catalyst for Viksit Bharat

a. Education and Skill Development

CSR initiatives can support digital classrooms, teacher training, scholarships, and vocational training centers. These efforts enhance human capital and prepare youth for future jobs. Skill Development Institute managed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited was set up to provide opportunities for skilling to the underprivileged and unemployed youth of Orissa.

b. Healthcare and Nutrition

Corporate funding can strengthen primary healthcare centers, maternal and child health programs, and nutrition schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan, improving public health outcomes.

c. Environmental Sustainability

CSR can drive investments in renewable energy, afforestation, water conservation, and waste management—critical for climate resilience and ecological balance. Green Initiatives by Karnataka Bank Ltd., Plantation and Afforestation by Tata Sponge Iron, Forest Based Sustainable Livelihood Projects by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) are some of the examples of CSR Initiatives.

d. Digital Inclusion

By supporting digital literacy programs and infrastructure in rural areas, CSR can bridge the digital divide and empower communities to participate in the digital economy. Digital Sakhi Project was executed by L&T Finance Holdings Limited.

e. Entrepreneurship and Innovation

CSR-backed incubators, start-up grants, and mentorship programs can foster innovation and self-reliance, echoing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

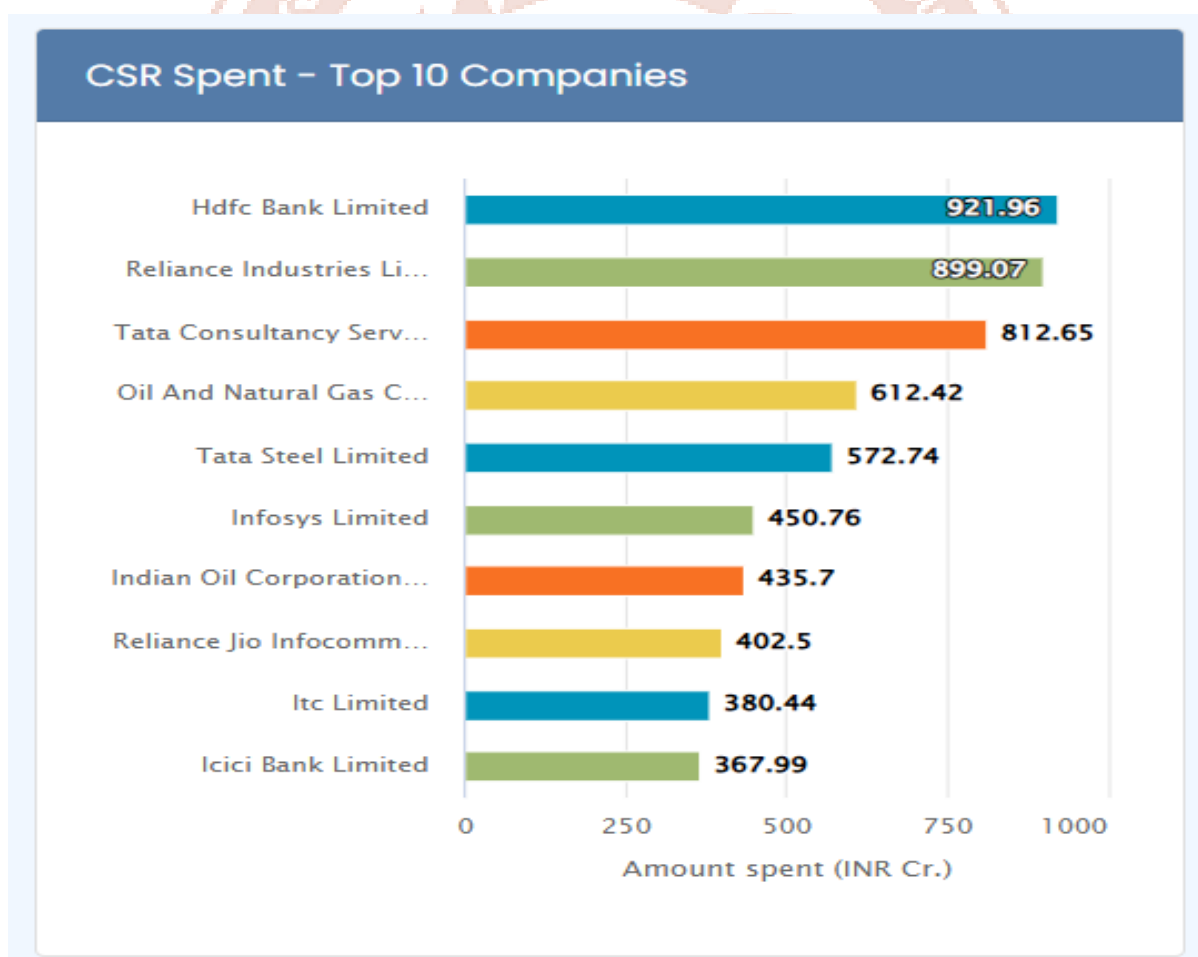
f. Rural Development

Development in livelihood and infrastructure projects like roads, water supply, housing etc. can be supported by CSR initiatives. Okhai and Cluster Development Programme by Tata Chemical Limited focuses on promoting livelihood, entrepreneurship, education and essential amenities in rural areas.

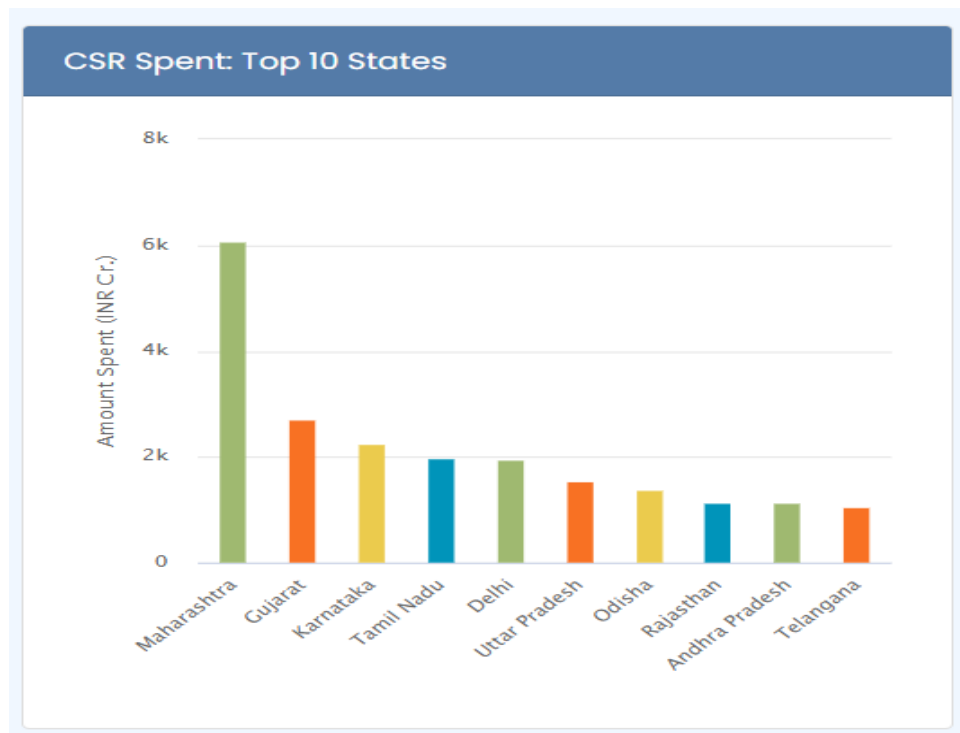
g. Women Empowerment

Few CSR activities focus on empowering women by conducting programs on financial literacy, health, entrepreneurship, etc. Projects like Project Shakti by HUL, Financial Literacy for rural women by ICICI foundation, Women Empowerment Initiative by ITC Limited, etc. had been already initiated.

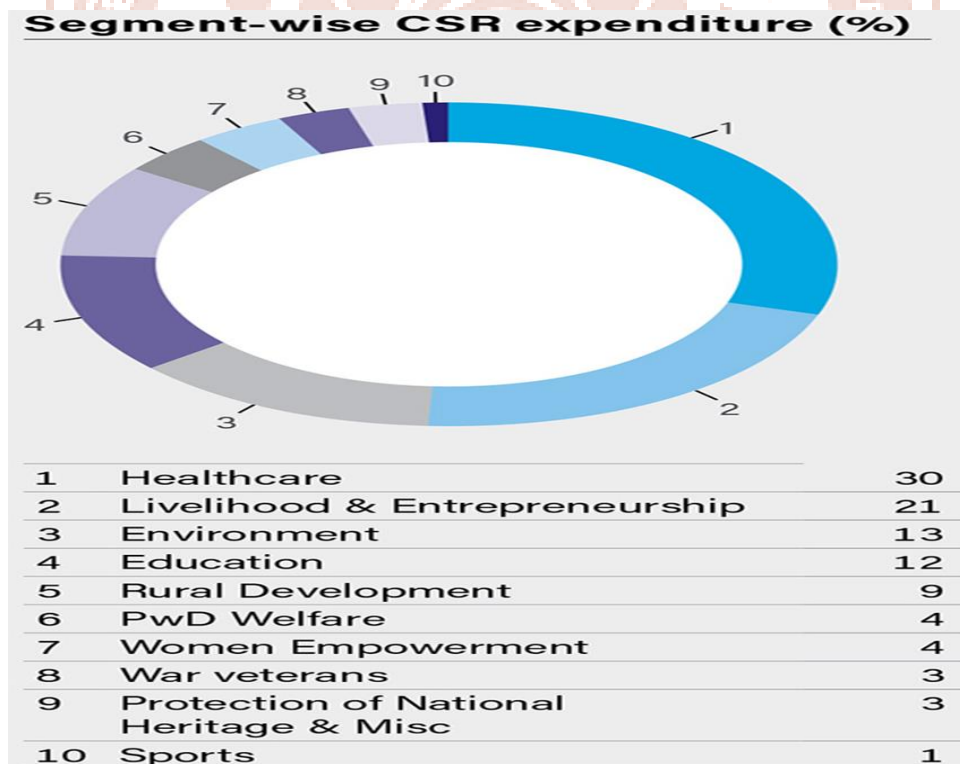
II. Table 4: Top most Companies contributing to CSR activities



III. Table 5 : States spending most in CSR activities



IV. Table 6 : Segment wise CSR Expenditure



V. Case Studies with its Impact and Vision

Infosys Foundation: Investments in education and rural development have transformed communities across India. Infosys's CSR efforts span a number of important areas, such as Education, Healthcare, Environmental Sustainability, Rural Development and Disaster Relief.

Infosys CSR programs seek to leave a positive, long-lasting impact on society by working to solve significant social, economic, and environmental challenges. Infosys's vision is to be of benefit to the nation's development as a whole and enhance the standard of living for all the stakeholders.

Tata Group: TATA Group's CSR initiatives span across numerous areas, including Education, Healthcare, Environmental Sustainability, Livelihood Enhancement and Community Development.

The CSR activities of the TATA Group focus on creating a positive impact on society through solving key social, economic, and environmental challenges. The vision of the group is to support the overall growth of the nation and enhance the quality of life for all the stakeholders.

SBI Foundation: The SBI Foundation, set up in 2015, is the CSR wing of the SBI Group. It takes up different projects to establish a development paradigm that is inclusive in nature and benefits all Indians without differentiation. The foundation is concerned with grassroot level initiatives to cause significant change.

SBI's CSR efforts focus on building community goodwill through empowering marginal communities and instilling conscious living with regard to ecological equilibrium. The bank aspires to assist and support the welfare of society through meaningful activities. SBI employs a set of different parameters to gauge the effectiveness of its CSR efforts. These indicators enable SBI to measure the success of its CSR initiatives and ensure that they are positively impacting society.

VI. Future of CSR

The future of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is transforming at a fast pace on several trends and new practices. Below are some important elements that are defining the future of CSR:

Alignment with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Principles:

Businesses are increasingly aligning CSR with ESG principles based on sustainability, ethical governance and social responsibility. This integrated approach makes it possible for businesses to meet environmental and social needs while continuing to have robust governance practices in place.

Focus on Climate Action and Sustainability:

In the wake of increased concerns over climate change, organizations are focusing more on sustainability and climate action within their CSR. This entails the minimization of carbon footprints, the adoption of renewable energy, and economy principles.

Deep-Impact Investing and Social Innovation

There is a movement toward deep-impact investing and social innovation, with businesses investing in long-term-commitment projects that have quantifiable social or environmental impact. This movement indicates a more strategic and sustainable CSR.

Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement

Firms are becoming aware of the need to involve stakeholders, such as employees, customers, and local communities, in their CSR activities. Such a collaborative effort makes CSR initiatives more effective and in line with stakeholders' needs.

Emphasis on Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are becoming essential elements of CSR. Firms are now more often reporting on their CSR initiatives and their effects, establishing trust with stakeholders and showcasing their social responsibility commitment.

Using Technology for CSR

Technology is contributing significantly to supporting CSR efforts. Firms are employing digital tools and platforms to monitor, quantify, and report CSR initiatives. Technology also allows for creative solutions to social and environmental issues.

Conformity with Global Goals

Businesses are conforming their CSR activities with global objectives, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This conformity ensures CSR activities support larger global goals and have a positive impact on society.

Development of CSR Frameworks

The CSR environment is changing with the emergence of new models and frameworks with focus on purpose, innovation, inclusion, and collaboration in CSR initiatives.

Innovations in CSR:

Here are a few new and creative ways firms are transforming CSR:

Social Intrapreneurship:

Employees employ their innovative thinking to solve social and environmental challenges while still on the company's payroll and often with its blessing.

Climate and Political Activism:

Firms are standing up on climate change and political matters, pushing for policies that reflect their values and sustainability objectives.

Consumer-Based Philanthropy:

Companies are involving consumers in their CSR initiatives by enabling them to donate to social causes through their purchases.

Digital Corporate Volunteering:

Utilizing digital platforms, firms are facilitating employees to volunteer for social causes from remote locations, making it convenient for them to donate their time and expertise.

Family Volunteering:

Involving employees to take their families along for volunteering activities, promoting a culture of giving back and building community ties.

Diverting Goods from Landfill:

Businesses are discovering creative means to reuse or recycle items that would otherwise go the landfill, conserving resources and fostering sustainability.

Impact Investing:

Firms are investing in projects and businesses that yield social and environmental impact in addition to financial returns.

CONCLUSION

This study has attempted to observe and understand the important role of CSR in achieving the mission 'Viksit Bharat @2047'. CSR is not just a statutory obligation—it is a strategic lever for nation-building. By aligning CSR initiatives with the goals of Mission Viksit Bharat, businesses can become powerful agents of change. Together, government and industry can build a future that is prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable.

The function of CSR has evolved from being a voluntary business practice to a strategic necessity. Contemporary consumers, employees, and investors increasingly demand that companies do more than make profits and make a positive contribution to society and the environment. Governments and international organizations also promote CSR through policies, guidelines, and incentives.

In short, CSR is a bridge between business success and well-being for society, such that companies grow while making the world a better place and having a lasting impact on it. Companies striving to measure success beyond bottom-line financial results may adopt CSR strategies that target environmental, ethical, philanthropic, and fiscal

responsibility that extend beyond the products they sell, which may ultimately lead to the mission Viksit Bharat @2047.

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