

Viksit Bharat 2047 and Telangana Rising 2047: A Comparative Framework for Rural Economic Transformation, Inclusive Development, and Governance Innovation

Dr. Paladugula Dhanraj

Department of Public Administration University city college of arts and social sciences, Osmania University

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.1015EC0104>

Received: 21 September 2026; Accepted: 26 September 2026; Published: 30 September 2026

ABSTRACT

This article presents a comparative analysis of two transformational vision frameworks India's Viksit Bharat 2047 and Telangana's Rising 2047 examining their conceptual foundations, policy architectures, and implications for rural economic transformation, inclusive development, and governance innovation within India's federal structure. Viksit Bharat 2047, operationalized through the Union Budgets of 2024–25 and 2025–26, targets a national GDP of USD 30–40 trillion by India's centenary of independence, anchored on four demographic pillars: youth, the poor, women, and farmers. Telangana Rising 2047, officially released at the Telangana Rising Global Summit held in Hyderabad on 9 December 2025, establishes a USD 3 trillion state economy target by 2047, with an interim milestone of USD 1 trillion by 2034, operationalized through India's first three-zone spatial economic model: CURE (Core Urban Region Economy), PURE (Peri-Urban Region Economy), and RARE (Rural Agri Region Economy). The study employs qualitative document analysis and comparative policy framework methodology, integrating Amartya Sen's capabilities approach with spatial development theory and federal governance models. Findings demonstrate that both frameworks transcend GDP-centric development models, emphasizing distributional equity, human capital development, institutional quality, and environmental sustainability. The paper identifies significant convergences in inclusive development strategy alongside critical implementation challenges including resource constraints, political economy dynamics, and social equity concerns. The analysis contributes original comparative framing of two simultaneous national and sub-national vision documents; a scholarly engagement largely absent in existing literature.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat 2047, Telangana Rising 2047, rural development, inclusive growth, governance innovation, spatial economic development, federal governance, India@2047, capabilities approach

INTRODUCTION

India stands at a defining moment in its developmental trajectory as the nation approaches the centennial anniversary of independence in 2047. This milestone has produced two interconnected yet distinct policy vision documents that seek to fundamentally reshape the country's economic, social, and institutional architecture. The Government of India's Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative translated as "Developed India" represents a comprehensive macro-structural framework designed to elevate the nation to developed-nation status by 2047, with a GDP target of USD 30–40 trillion and per capita income of USD 15,000–21,000 (Government of India, 2025; PHD Chamber of Commerce, 2024). Simultaneously, the state of Telangana unveiled its Rising 2047 vision document on 9 December 2025 at the Telangana Rising Global Summit in Hyderabad, charting a state-level roadmap calibrated to regional geography, natural endowments, and institutional capacity, targeting a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047 (Telangana Government, 2025).

The scholarly impetus for examining these dual frameworks emerges from three critical considerations. First, India's rural economy, encompassing approximately 65% of the national population, requires strategic developmental frameworks that extend substantially beyond conventional agricultural interventions to address infrastructure deficits, financial exclusion, human capital gaps, and technological lags. Second, India's federal

governance structure necessitates coherent alignment between national and state policy frameworks to ensure effective implementation and resource mobilization. Third, both documents reflect an evolved understanding that capital investment and infrastructure provision alone are insufficient; institutional quality, democratic accountability, and citizen participation are equally foundational. Despite the contemporaneous and complementary nature of these vision documents, no published scholarly study has undertaken a systematic comparative analysis of both frameworks through an integrated capabilities and spatial development theory lens. This paper seeks to fill that gap.

The study employs a qualitative document analysis methodology examining official government policy documents, vision statements, budget documents, and secondary scholarly sources. The theoretical framework integrates Amartya Sen's capabilities approach to development (Sen, 1999) with spatial development theory and federal governance models (Bardhan & Mookherjee, 2006; Kohli, 2004). This methodological integration enables comprehensive examination of how economic growth targets, spatial differentiation strategies, and institutional structures interact to shape development outcomes in India's federal architecture. The analytical procedure followed a structured thematic matrix approach. Primary documents were examined across six pre-defined thematic dimensions: (1) economic growth targets and feasibility, (2) spatial or geographic development architecture, (3) inclusive development mechanisms, (4) agricultural and rural transformation, (5) governance and institutional design, and (6) environmental sustainability commitments. For each dimension, convergences and divergences between the two frameworks were identified through systematic cross-document reading and tabulated in a comparative matrix. Document validation followed a hierarchy of source credibility: official government publications and budget documents were treated as primary sources; peer-reviewed journal articles as secondary sources; and media and policy commentary as contextual references only, not as evidentiary claims. No software-assisted coding (such as NVivo or MAXQDA) was employed, as the document corpus was deliberately limited to key primary policy documents amenable to close qualitative reading. This approach aligns with policy process tracing as described in comparative public policy methodology literature (Bardhan & Mookherjee, 2006; Rao & Bird, 2010).

METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE GAP

This study adopts a qualitative comparative policy analysis framework grounded in document analysis methodology. Primary sources examined include: the official Viksit Bharat 2047 vision documents published by NITI Aayog and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG); Union Budget documents for 2024–25 and 2025–26; the Economic Survey 2024–25; the official Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document released on 9 December 2025; and state budget documents for Telangana 2024–25 published by PRS Legislative Research. Secondary sources include peer-reviewed scholarly literature on Indian federalism, rural development, inclusive growth, and governance reform.

The selection of documents followed purposive sampling logic: only official primary government documents and peer-reviewed secondary sources were included. Newspaper sources are cited only where official documents have not yet been indexed in academic databases, given the recency of the Telangana Rising 2047 document (released December 2025). This limitation is acknowledged explicitly. The theoretical framework draws on Sen's development as freedom paradigm (1999), spatial economics literature emphasizing place-based differentiation (Drèze & Sen, 2013), and federal governance scholarship examining coordination between national and sub-national governments (Bardhan & Mookherjee, 2006; Manor, 1999; Rao & Bird, 2010).

Existing scholarly literature has examined Viksit Bharat 2047 primarily through economic projection and sectoral policy lenses (Bhardwaj et al., 2024; Das & Chakraborty, 2024; Pani & Mohanty, 2024). State-level vision documents in India have received attention largely through governance and administrative studies journals but have not been subjected to comparative analysis with national frameworks. The CURE-PURE-RARE spatial model of Telangana Rising 2047 has received media and policy commentary but no peer-reviewed scholarly analysis exists as of this writing. This paper therefore contributes an original comparative lens to a policy conversation currently dominated by non-academic discourse, providing theoretically grounded analysis useful for both academic scholarship and evidence-based policymaking at national and state levels.

Viksit Bharat 2047: Conceptual Foundations and Policy Architecture

Viksit Bharat 2047 represents the Government of India's articulation of national development aspirations for the twenty-first century. The framework targets transformation of the country into a self-reliant, prosperous, and globally competitive economy by 2047 with quantitative economic targets of USD 30–40 trillion GDP, representing growth from India's current GDP of approximately USD 3.94 trillion (IMF, 2024), and per capita income of USD 15,000–21,000, against a current level of approximately USD 2,700 (Government of India, 2025). The Economic Survey 2024–25 notes that achieving these targets requires sustained GDP growth of approximately 8% per annum for one to two decades, a demanding but not implausible trajectory given India's current 6.3–6.8% growth estimates for FY26 (Ministry of Finance, 2025). The Union Budget 2025–26 operationalized this vision through concrete policy measures including the National Manufacturing Mission, Deep Tech Fund of Funds, Nuclear Energy Mission for 100 GW by 2047, Employment-Linked Incentive Scheme, and income tax relief raising the tax-free threshold to Rs. 12 lakhs.

The strategic architecture of Viksit Bharat 2047 rests on four demographic pillars operationalizing inclusive growth principles. Yuva (Youth) emphasizes skills development, entrepreneurship, and technological adoption to harness India's demographic dividend through the Skill India Mission and PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Garib (The Poor) focuses on poverty alleviation through Jan Dhan financial inclusion, which has empowered crores of citizens with banking access. Mahilayen (Women) ensures gender-sensitive development including 33% legislative reservation and over 28 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened by women. Annadata (Farmers) promotes agricultural modernization through PM KISAN direct transfers benefiting 17 million farmers, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop insurance, and a Rs. 1 lakh crore agricultural infrastructure fund (Government of India, 2025).

Beyond these pillars, the framework's sectoral projections are significant: agriculture's share of GDP is projected to decline from 20% in FY23 to 12% by 2047, while manufacturing is targeted to rise to 25% and services to stabilize around 54% (PHD Chamber of Commerce, 2024). India's Global Innovation Index ranking improved from 52nd in 2019 to 39th in 2024, with AI readiness targeted for top-five globally by 2047. The framework also identifies India's position as the fourth-largest installed renewable energy capacity globally as foundational to the green development pathway, with 500 GW non-fossil capacity targeted by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070 (Government of India, 2025).

Telangana Rising 2047: State-Level Operationalization and Spatial Development

Telangana Rising 2047, officially released by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on 9 December 2025 at the Telangana Rising Global Summit in Bharat Future City, Hyderabad, represents the state government's strategic response to national development imperatives, calibrated to Telangana's unique geographic, demographic, and institutional context (Telangana Government, 2025). The vision targets a USD 3 trillion GSDP by 2047, with an interim milestone of USD 1.2 trillion by 2034. These targets are contextualized by Telangana's current GSDP of approximately Rs. 16.12 lakh crore (USD ~195 billion) at current prices in 2024–25, growing at 10.1% outpacing India's national GDP growth of 9.9% in the same year (Deccan Chronicle, 2025; PRS Legislative Research, 2024). The state contributes approximately 5% of India's national GDP despite comprising only approximately 2.9% of the national population a structural over performance the vision seeks to extend toward a 10% GDP contribution by 2047 (Telangana Government, 2025).

The defining innovation of Telangana Rising 2047 is India's first three-zone spatial economic architecture, the CURE-PURE-RARE model, dividing the entire state map into three sector-specific development zones. This spatial differentiation recognizes that uniform development models have historically failed to address geographical heterogeneity, natural comparative advantages, and varying levels of urbanization across the state's 33 districts. The model is described in detail in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Telangana Rising 2047 CURE, PURE, and RARE Zone Framework

Feature	CURE	PURE	RARE
Full Name	Core Urban Region Economy	Peri-Urban Region Economy	Rural Agri Region Economy
Geographic Boundary	Within Outer Ring Road (~2,170 sq km)	Between ORR and Regional Ring Road	From RRR to state border (majority of Telangana)
Primary Sector Focus	Services, IT, Finance, Innovation	Manufacturing, Industry, Logistics	Agriculture, Agribusiness, Eco-tourism
Environmental Target	Net-Zero emissions city	Green manufacturing with efficiency mandates	Sustainable farming, renewables adoption
Key Infrastructure	Digital hubs, Musi river rejuvenation, R&D clusters	Greenfield highways, Bullet train corridor	T-Fiber, pond restoration, agritech parks
Employment Focus	High-value, knowledge economy jobs	Semi-skilled and skilled factory employment	Farm + non-farm rural livelihoods

Source: Telangana Government (2025); compiled by author.

Three foundational enablers operate across all zones as cross-cutting pillars: Technology and Innovation (digital infrastructure, AI applications, quantum computing, cybersecurity); Efficient Financing (green bonds, infrastructure investment trusts, capital mobilization); and Good Governance (single-window systems, blockchain land records, data-driven service delivery). The summit concluded with MoUs worth Rs. 5.75 lakh crore across sectors, participating Nobel laureates, and endorsements from international economists who described the roadmap as ambitious but not implausible.

Comparative Framework: Convergences and Differentiation

Systematic comparison of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Telangana Rising 2047 reveals significant structural convergences reflecting shared developmental philosophy, alongside critical differences reflecting their distinct governance levels and institutional contexts. Table 2 presents a structured comparative overview.

Table 2: Comparative Framework Viksit Bharat 2047 and Telangana Rising 2047

Dimension	Viksit Bharat 2047	Telangana Rising 2047
Governance Level	National (Central Government)	State (Government of Telangana)
Economic Target	USD 30–40 trillion GDP by 2047	USD 3 trillion GSDP by 2047; USD 1 trillion by 2034
Per Capita Target	USD 15,000–21,000	Proportional rise in state per capita income
Spatial Approach	National aggregate; no explicit spatial zoning	Three-zone CURE-PURE-RARE spatial model
Core Demographic Pillars	Yuva, Garib, Mahilayen, Annadata	Women, Youth, Farmers, Marginalized communities
Rural Development Focus	PM KISAN, Fasal Bima, Krishi Sinchayee Yojana	RARE zone: agritech, food processing, T-Fiber, 2,959 pond restorations

Environmental Commitment	4th largest renewable energy globally; One Sun One World One Grid	Net-Zero CURE zone; green hydrogen; solar installations
Digital Governance	India Stack, Aadhaar, UMANG, Digital Saksharta Abhiyan	T-Fiber, single-window clearance, blockchain land records
Theoretical Alignment	Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas; SDG integration	Sen's Capabilities + Spatial Development Theory
Milestone Checkpoints	2047 as primary target	2034 (\$1 trillion) and 2047 (\$3 trillion) dual targets

Source: Government of India (2025); Telangana Government (2025); compiled by author.

Both frameworks explicitly position marginalized and historically disadvantaged populations as central to development strategies rather than residual beneficiaries. Both documents also treat agricultural modernization as foundational rather than a sector to contract: the national vision emphasizes making India the "food basket of the world," while Telangana Rising operationalizes this through sustainable agriculture, agribusiness development, and food processing within the RARE zone. Net-zero emissions target in both frameworks reflect conscious integration of climate imperatives into development planning. Digital infrastructure India Stack and Aadhaar at the national level; T-Fiber and blockchain land records at the state level is treated by both as a prerequisite for transparent, efficient, and inclusive governance.

The most significant structural difference lies in spatial design. Viksit Bharat 2047 operates at macro-economic aggregation without explicit geographic differentiation within states, whereas Telangana Rising 2047 employs India's first explicit zone-specific delineation of development trajectories. This represents a methodological contribution to Indian federalism: the state-level framework demonstrates how national development ambitions can be contextualized and operationalized with geographic granularity that national frameworks necessarily cannot achieve. A second important difference is the milestone architecture: Telangana establishes a clear 2034 checkpoint (\$1–1.2 trillion GSDP) absent from the national framework's exclusive 2047 horizon, providing programmatic accountability mechanisms that strengthen implementation discipline.

Policy Mechanisms for Inclusive Development

The Viksit Bharat framework operationalizes inclusive development through multi-dimensional mechanisms. Food security schemes benefit over 80 crore citizens; Jan Dhan financial inclusion has provided banking access to hundreds of millions of previously unbanked households; and the PM KISAN scheme delivers direct income transfers to 17 million farmers (Government of India, 2025). Women's empowerment receives policy attention through constitutional 33% legislative reservation, the Jan Dhan accounts programme covering over 28 crore women, and maternity support under PM Matru Vandana Yojana. Education modernisation includes Nipun Bharat for foundational literacy, the Skill India Mission which has upskilled millions of workers, and Atal Tinkering Labs for scientific temperament development among youth.

Telangana's inclusive development mechanisms are operationalized through both zone-specific and cross-cutting policies. Agriculture sector support includes the state's adoption of PM Fasal Bima Yojana with government-paid farmer premiums, the Rythu Bharosa income support scheme, free electricity for farmers, and crop loan waivers. Women's economic participation is addressed through the Indira Mahila Shakthi Programme targeting training for 63 lakh women entrepreneurs. Telangana's female workforce participation stands at 52.7% against a national average of 45.2%, demonstrating structural gains that the vision seeks to build upon (Deccan Chronicle, 2025). The state's per capita income stands at Rs. 4,18,931 (FY2025–26 projected) 1.8 times the national per capita income reflecting strong economic progress that the vision seeks to translate into distributed prosperity rather than concentrated urban wealth. (Telangana State Planning Department, 2025).

Rural Economic Transformation: Agricultural Modernization and Non-Farm Employment

Both vision frameworks conceptualize rural transformation not as agricultural sector contraction with population displacement to urban areas, but as comprehensive productivity enhancement through technological integration, value-chain development, market linkages, and income assurance mechanisms. The national framework emphasizes cost reduction through efficiency gains, improved market access through supply chain integration, and assured income mechanisms through guaranteed minimum support prices and crop insurance (Government of India, 2025). Telangana Rising 2047, through the RARE zone framework, operationalizes agricultural modernization through agritech adoption and extension services, food processing industry development creating value-addition within rural zones, cooperative strengthening for collective marketing, livestock development integrated with farming systems, and sustainable farming practices addressing environmental and climate adaptation concerns.

The RARE zone framework is notable for its explicit enumeration of non-farm rural employment pathways food processing and agribusiness management, handicrafts and cultural entrepreneurship, eco-tourism and heritage preservation, renewable energy installation and maintenance, supply chain and logistics services, and digital services enabled through the T-Fiber last-mile connectivity project. This represents a substantive departure from earlier rural development models that treated agriculture as the only rural livelihood option. The T-Fiber project specifically targets high-speed internet connectivity to all villages, enabling digital service access, e-governance participation, and rural entrepreneurship in knowledge-economy activities previously unavailable outside urban centers.

Rural infrastructure deficits are addressed through concrete investments in both frameworks. At the national level, PM Gati Shakti multimodal infrastructure integration, Jal Jeevan Mission water connectivity, and Swachh Bharat sanitation expansion create foundational physical and social infrastructure. At the state level, Telangana Rising commits to Regional Ring Road development, renewable energy infrastructure including solar installations and green hydrogen production, healthcare expansion through primary and preventive care centers, and a comprehensive pond rehabilitation programme targeting 2,959 ponds across the state. These infrastructure commitments address foundational deficits that chronically constrain rural economic diversification and human development outcomes.

Governance Innovation and Digital Infrastructure

Both vision documents position good governance not as a supplementary objective but as a foundational prerequisite for development outcomes. The national framework emphasizes expansion of India Stack digital public infrastructure, unified digital identity through Aadhaar integration, and citizen-centric e-governance platforms including UMANG and KisanRath (Government of India, 2025). The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan has digitally empowered over 4.6 crore citizens, enabling broader participation in digital governance and economic platforms. Business environment reforms have eliminated 41,000 redundant regulatory compliances and decriminalized specific company law provisions, improving the ease of doing business for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

At the state level, Telangana Rising 2047 designates technology-driven governance transformation as one of its three cross-cutting foundational enablers. The T-Fiber project's last-mile connectivity goal is complemented by integrated service delivery through single-window systems, real-time governance through data analytics, mobile application-based service access, and blockchain integration for land records and certificate issuance. The Telangana model positions digital governance not merely as an administrative efficiency tool but as a democratizing mechanism reducing discretionary administrative power, minimizing corruption opportunities through transparency, and improving citizen-state interface quality all consistent with Sen's capabilities framework emphasis on genuine political and social freedoms as constitutive of development itself.

Decentralized governance through Panchayat Raj institutions represents an important but incompletely realized dimension of both frameworks. India's 73rd Constitutional Amendment mandates a three-tier system with devolution of powers, functions, and finances across 29 subjects in the Eleventh Schedule. Both vision documents reference functional decentralization, but as existing scholarship on Indian local governance notes,

actual power devolution, resource transfer, and administrative capacity building at the panchayat level remains incomplete across most states (Rao & Bird, 2010; Bardhan & Mookherjee, 2006; Manor, 1999). Closing this implementation gap between constitutional mandate and ground-level practice remains one of the most significant institutional challenges for both frameworks.

Gram Panchayat Role in RARE Zone Implementation

Effective implementation of the RARE zone framework ultimately depends on the operational capacity of Gram Panchayats the constitutionally mandated third tier of governance under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. While the CURE-PURE-RARE zoning provides a spatial economic blueprint, actual service delivery, land use regulation, agritech extension coordination, and community mobilisation in rural areas necessarily flows through Gram Panchayat institutions. Telangana has 12,769 Gram Panchayats covering its rural geography, and the RARE zone encompasses the majority of these units. Three institutional gaps are currently evident. First, most Gram Panchayats in Telangana lack dedicated technical staff for agricultural coordination and digital service delivery a deficit that T-Fiber connectivity alone cannot resolve without complementary human resource deployment. Second, own-source revenue of rural Gram Panchayats remains negligible, making them heavily dependent on state transfers and Centrally Sponsored Scheme funds for any developmental activity. Third, elected representatives at the Panchayat level have limited formal involvement in zone-specific planning processes under the current CURE-PURE-RARE administrative architecture. For the RARE vision to translate into ground-level outcomes, the state government will need to explicitly integrate Gram Panchayats into the zone governance structure through dedicated capacity building, devolution of relevant Eleventh Schedule subjects, and ring-fenced RARE zone development funds channeled through Panchayat institutions rather than solely through line departments.

Implementation Challenges and Critical Analysis

Both vision frameworks are accompanied by significant implementation challenges that warrant honest critical analysis beyond aspirational projections. For Telangana Rising 2047, the USD 3 trillion economy target by 2047 requires rigorous feasibility scrutiny. Telangana's current GSDP of approximately USD 195 billion in 2024–25 requires sustained growth at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of approximately 13–14% over 22 years to reach USD 3 trillion (PRS Legislative Research, 2024; Telangana State Planning Department, 2025). While international precedents South Korea's transformation during the 1960s–1990s at 8–10% sustained annual growth demonstrate that transformational trajectories are historically possible under specific institutional conditions, the Telangana target requires substantially higher rates. The state's established IT and services sector foundation, strong urban agglomeration in Hyderabad, relatively capable governance institutions, and strategic location in southern India's growth corridor provide genuine structural advantages. However, vulnerabilities including external economic shocks, semi-arid water scarcity constraints, and inter-state competition for investment are real constraints.

Fiscal Capacity and Financing Risks

A complementary dimension of feasibility that warrants explicit examination is Telangana's fiscal capacity to finance the massive public capital expenditures envisioned under Rising 2047. The state's total expenditure in 2024–25 was approximately Rs. 2.57 lakh crore (*approx. USD 31 billion*) against a GSDP of Rs. 16.12 lakh crore (*approx. USD 195 billion*) a fiscal effort ratio of roughly 16% (PRS Legislative Research, 2024). Telangana's debt-to-GSDP ratio stands at approximately 28–30% and is approaching the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act) ceiling of 33% for states. High-speed rail corridors, green hydrogen production infrastructure, net-zero city retrofitting, and large-scale renewable energy deployment individually involve capital outlays running into *tens of thousands of crores* amounts substantially exceeding the state's current annual capital expenditure of approximately Rs. 20,000–25,000 crore. The vision document's reference to green bonds, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and private capital mobilisation through MoUs worth Rs. 5.75 lakh crore (*approx. USD 69 billion*) represents an optimistic but unverified financing assumption. Translating MoU announcements into committed capital flows a historically poor conversion ratio in *Indian state investment summits* remains the central fiscal risk to the vision's implementation timeline.

For Viksit Bharat 2047, the Economic Survey 2024–25 itself acknowledges that the required 8% sustained GDP growth over one to two decades faces "prominently extraneous downsides" from global political and economic environments (Ministry of Finance, 2025). India's FY26 growth is estimated at 6.3–6.8%, below the 8% threshold the Survey identifies as necessary. Structural reforms in factor markets, formalisation of the economy, social investment in human capital, and gender equity in workforce participation are each necessary but individually insufficient conditions.

Agricultural Labour Transition and Structural Absorption

A structurally significant but underexamined consequence of both frameworks is the projected contraction of agriculture's share of national GDP from approximately 20% in FY2023 to 12% by 2047 (PHD Chamber of Commerce, 2024). While this sectoral rebalancing reflects standard structural transformation theory, it raises a concrete question about absorptive capacity: where will the estimated 80–100 million agricultural and rural workers displaced from primary agriculture over this period be realistically employed? The national framework's response through the Skill India Mission, Employment-Linked Incentive schemes, and manufacturing sector expansion under the National Manufacturing Mission provides a directional answer but does not present a quantified absorption pathway. Telangana Rising 2047's RARE zone framework partially addresses this through non-farm rural livelihoods including food processing, eco-tourism, logistics, and digital services. However, these sectors collectively remain small relative to the potential displacement scale, and their employment elasticity in semi-arid rural districts with limited infrastructure is uncertain. Both frameworks would benefit from an explicit rural labour transition roadmap specifying sector-wise absorption projections, skill development timelines, and social protection mechanisms for the transition period elements currently absent from both vision documents.

The CURE-PURE-RARE model also faces legitimate implementation challenges. Critics have noted that using road infrastructure (ORR and RRR) as zone boundaries is administratively simplistic: significant urban and industrial nodes including Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, and Mahbubnagar fall outside the CURE designation despite having substantial urban and industrial characteristics (The South First, 2025; cited as contextual reference only). Zone-specific governance authority structures remain unresolved existing district and mandal administrative jurisdictions do not align with the three-zone geography, creating potential coordination problems. PURE zone industrial expansion will require agricultural land acquisition in areas with historically strong farmer resistance to such processes. The relocation of polluting industries from the CURE net-zero zone to PURE also carries risk of merely displacing environmental burden to areas with weaker regulatory infrastructure.

A further equity concern that deserves explicit policy attention is the risk of inter-district inequality entrenchment within Telangana itself. The CURE-PURE-RARE zoning architecture is spatially anchored to Hyderabad's road infrastructure the Outer Ring Road and the proposed Rajendra Ring Road. This design inherently positions the Hyderabad metropolitan region as the primary beneficiary of high-value CURE zone services and innovation economy activities, while major secondary urban centres including Warangal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, and Mahbubnagar fall structurally within the PURE manufacturing or RARE agricultural zones regardless of their own urbanisation levels, industrial capacity, or service sector development. Warangal, designated as a Smart City and home to the National Institute of Technology Warangal, is a case in point its existing higher education, IT, and services ecosystem fits the CURE zone profile but is administratively classified as a PURE or RARE zone by geographic default. Without explicit policy mechanisms ensuring that secondary cities retain high-value economic functions appropriate to their actual development stage through dedicated innovation corridors, satellite IT parks, or city-specific economic master plans the CURE-PURE-RARE framework risks deepening the Hyderabad–Rest of Telangana economic divide that persisted from the pre-bifurcation era and remains a politically and socially sensitive fault line in the state.

Social equity concerns cut across both frameworks. Despite inclusive development rhetoric, implementation risks exist regarding benefit distribution. Land-owning farmers benefit disproportionately from agricultural programs while landless agricultural labourers risk exclusion from asset-based interventions. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes face structural access barriers to development benefits. Substantive gender transformation requires addressing unpaid care work burdens, ensuring safe public spaces,

enforcing property rights, and implementing gender-responsive budgeting commitments that both frameworks gesturally acknowledge but do not operationalise in depth.

Sustainability and Environmental Tensions

Both frameworks position environmental sustainability as integral rather than competitive with development. India's achievement of the fourth-largest installed renewable energy capacity globally, with solar capacity producing power at record-low tariffs of Rs. 1.99 per unit and the GOBARdhan scheme converting agricultural waste to biogas, demonstrates genuine policy-level integration of environmental imperatives (Government of India, 2025). Telangana Rising 2047's CURE zone net-zero city commitment and green hydrogen production plans reflect similar intent. However, genuine tensions remain between industrial expansion and sustainability. The PURE manufacturing zone's projected industrial expansion is inherently energy-intensive; green technology adoption at the required scale demands capital that may exceed state fiscal capacity. Telangana faces structural water constraints including groundwater overexploitation, monsoon variability under climate change, inter-state river water disputes over Krishna and Godavari allocations, and increasing competition between agricultural, industrial, and urban water demand. Both vision documents acknowledge these challenges but do not fully resolve the policy tensions between their growth and sustainability objectives.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

For the national government implementing Viksit Bharat 2047: fiscal federalism reforms should increase states' share in central tax devolution beyond the current 41% and establish performance-based incentives for states achieving quantifiable development milestones. Agricultural policy restructuring should ensure Guaranteed Minimum Support Price mechanisms with cost-plus pricing formulas protecting farmer incomes across all crops, expand crop insurance coverage adequacy, and deploy agritech extension services at scale leveraging digital infrastructure. Universal social security expansion should prioritise Universal Basic Income pilots in rural areas, comprehensive health insurance expansion under Ayushman Bharat, pension coverage for informal sector workers, and unemployment insurance during economic transitions.

For the Telangana state government implementing Rising 2047: CURE-PURE-RARE governance structures need dedicated zone-specific administrative authorities with integrated powers reducing bureaucratic fragmentation, with clear mapping against existing district and mandal jurisdictions to resolve coordination problems. Rural economic transformation under the RARE framework should establish Agricultural Innovation Hubs with research-extension-farmer linkages, create food processing industrial parks with farmer cooperative ownership models ensuring benefit distribution, and invest in entrepreneurship incubation specifically targeting rural youth and women-headed enterprises. Intermediate accountability should be strengthened through annual public disclosure of progress against the 2034 interim target across all zones, enabling course correction before the 2047 horizon.

CONCLUSION

Viksit Bharat 2047 and Telangana Rising 2047 represent simultaneously ambitious and earnest attempts to chart comprehensive development pathways for India's centenary of independence. This comparative analysis reveals substantial alignment between national and state frameworks a coherence that reflects the best possibilities of India's federal development planning. Both transcend GDP-centric development models, incorporating distributional equity, human capabilities development, institutional quality, and environmental sustainability as co-equal development objectives. The national vision's emphasis on food security covering 80 crore citizens, financial inclusion reaching crores of previously unbanked households, and farmer welfare reaching 17 million beneficiaries reflects equity-centered commitment at scale. Telangana Rising 2047's CURE-PURE-RARE spatial innovation India's first such framework offers methodological contribution to development planning by demonstrating how geographical heterogeneity can be systematically incorporated into state-level vision frameworks rather than treated as a residual problem.

Implementation challenges are real, significant, and should not be minimized by aspirational language. Resource constraints, political economy dynamics, zone boundary governance gaps, social equity exclusions, and

environmental sustainability tensions each require sustained institutional attention beyond the vision document itself. Development success depends not merely on capital investment and infrastructure provision but fundamentally on institutional quality, democratic accountability, citizen engagement, and sustained political will across successive governments and administrative tenures. The vision documents provide strategic blueprints; translating blueprints into built realities requires all of these, and most critically, active citizenship that demands genuine accountability from governing institutions across the decades ahead.

REFERENCES

1. Bardhan, P., & Mookherjee, D. (2006). *Decentralization and local governance in developing countries: A comparative perspective*. MIT Press.
2. Bhardwaj, N., Mukherjee, A., & Rao, K. S. (2024). *Viksit Bharat 2047: A strategic vision for India's inclusive and sustainable development*. IJRCMS Research and Publications. <https://ijrcms.com/viksit-bharat-2047>
3. Das, R., & Chakraborty, S. (2024). Structural changes for Viksit Bharat 2047. *Journal of Educational and Theoretical Research Innovation*, 25(9), 468–481.
4. Deccan Chronicle. (2025, March). Telangana posts better economic growth than India. <https://deccanchronicle.com/southern-states/telangana/telangana-posts-better-economic-growth-than-india-1867936>
5. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. (2024). *Vision India@2047: Bringing citizens and government together for a developed India*. Government of India. <https://darpg.gov.in/sites/default/files/final%20vision%20india2047..approved.pdf>
6. Drèze, J., & Sen, A. (2013). *An uncertain glory: India and its contradictions*. Princeton University Press.
7. Government of India, Ministry of Finance. (2025). *Economic Survey 2024–25*. Department of Economic Affairs. <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3kv05b90e8875c131d0760d04c0d4d8f3/uploads/2025/08/2025080227.pdf>
8. Government of India. (2025). *Viksit Bharat: Policy paper*. NITI Aayog. https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/WP_Viksit_Bharat_2024-July-19.pdf
9. IMF. (2024). *World economic outlook database*. International Monetary Fund. <https://www.imf.org/>
10. Kohli, A. (2004). *State-directed development: Political power and industrialization in the global periphery*. Cambridge University Press.
11. Manor, J. (1999). *The political economy of democratic decentralization*. World Bank.
12. Ministry of Rural Development. (2024). *PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan: Rural infrastructure development*. Government of India. <https://mord.gov.in/>
13. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. (2025). *National accounts statistics 2025*. Government of India. <https://mospi.gov.in/>
14. NITI Aayog. (2024). *Policy framework for Viksit Bharat 2047*. Government of India. <https://www.niti.gov.in/>
15. Pani, P. K., & Mohanty, R. (2024). *Viksit Bharat @2047: A blueprint of micro and macro economic dynamics*. PHDCCI Policy Research. <https://www.phdcci.in/>
16. PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. (2024). *Viksit Bharat@2047: A blueprint of micro and macro economic dynamics*. New Delhi: PHDCCI.
17. PRS Legislative Research. (2024). *Telangana budget analysis 2024–25*. <https://prsindia.org/budgets/states/telangana-budget-analysis-2024-25>
18. Rao, M. G., & Bird, R. M. (2010). Fiscal decentralization in India. *India Policy Forum*, 6(1), 1–82.
19. Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.
20. Telangana Government. (2025). *Telangana Rising 2047 vision document*. Released at Telangana Rising Global Summit, Bharat Future City, Hyderabad, 9 December 2025. <https://t-hub.co/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Telangana-Vision-2047.pdf>
21. Telangana State Planning Department. (2025). *Telangana Socio-Economic Outlook 2025*. Government of Telangana. <https://planning.telangana.gov.in/>
22. The South First. (2025, December 8). *Telangana Rising Global Summit kicks off with grand vision for 2047*. <https://thesouthfirst.com/news/telangana-rising-global-summit-kicks-off-with-grand-vision-for-2047/>

23. The South First. (2025, December). Telangana Rising Vision Document 2047: A jugglery of statistics (Opinion). <https://thesouthfirst.com/opinion/telangana-rising-vision-document-2047-a-jugglery-of-statistics/>