



**COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
REPORT OF TELANGANA**

YOUTH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

NEW DELHI

JULY 2026

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FOREWORD

Telangana has emerged as one of India's most dynamic and rapidly developing states. Since its formation, the state has established itself as a national leader in information technology, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, innovation, digital governance, and industrial development. With Hyderabad serving as a globally recognized technology and research hub, Telangana has demonstrated how visionary governance, strategic investments, and innovation-driven policies can accelerate economic growth while creating opportunities for millions. As India advances towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, Telangana is uniquely positioned to play a transformative role in shaping the country's knowledge economy and technological future.

However, as we navigate the rapidly changing economic, technological, and environmental realities of the twenty-first century, it has become increasingly evident that Telangana stands at an important stage in its development journey. While the state has achieved remarkable progress across multiple sectors, it also faces complex challenges that require long-term strategic planning. Balanced regional development, employment generation for a growing youth population, sustainable urbanization, water resource management, climate resilience, agricultural modernization, environmental conservation, and expanding innovation beyond metropolitan centres have become critical priorities for the coming decades.

To fully realize its immense potential, Telangana must continue its transition towards a globally competitive, innovation-driven, environmentally sustainable, and inclusive economy. It is within this important context that **The Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the State of Telangana** was conceived. When the Youth Peace and Development Forum, through its Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks, entrusted me with the responsibility of leading this ambitious initiative, our objective was clear—to prepare a forward-looking, evidence-based, and actionable roadmap capable of guiding the state's long-term development.

Leading this extensive project has been both a privilege and an intellectually enriching experience. Over several months, our research team carefully examined the structural opportunities and emerging challenges that will shape Telangana's future. From the outset, we recognized that sustaining high economic growth requires more than incremental policy improvements. It demands integrated planning, institutional innovation, data-driven governance, and coordinated reforms across every major sector of public administration and economic activity.

This document represents the culmination of rigorous research, comparative policy analysis, and extensive deliberations among researchers, young professionals, subject experts, and policy enthusiasts. Rather than serving merely as an assessment of existing systems, this framework has been designed as a practical blueprint for transformative action. The strategic recommendations presented throughout this report seek to strengthen Telangana's long-term competitiveness while ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Our recommendations place particular emphasis on strengthening higher education, research, and advanced skill development to build a globally competitive workforce; expanding innovation ecosystems in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, aerospace, and information technology; accelerating industrial growth through advanced manufacturing; modernizing agriculture with precision farming and sustainable irrigation practices; improving healthcare systems; strengthening digital governance; expanding renewable energy; enhancing urban infrastructure; and developing climate-resilient cities and rural communities. Throughout this framework, we have remained committed to one guiding principle: economic progress must be accompanied by environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and equal opportunities for every citizen.

As the lead of this important initiative, I take immense pride in the dedication, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated by every member of our research and drafting team. We firmly believe that the youth of India should actively contribute to shaping public policy rather than merely observing it. The contributors to this report devoted countless hours to analysing developmental trends, studying international best practices, consulting policy literature, and evaluating innovative solutions to ensure that every recommendation presented here is both ambitious and practically achievable.

This report reflects our generation's vision for a future-ready Telangana. We envision a state that combines world-class technological innovation with inclusive growth, rapid industrial expansion with environmental stewardship, global competitiveness with social equity, and economic excellence with a high quality of life. We aspire to build a Telangana where innovation flourishes, entrepreneurship thrives, talented young people find meaningful opportunities, and every region of the state shares in the benefits of sustained development.

It is my sincere hope that this Comprehensive Development Framework will serve as a catalyst for informed discussion, constructive collaboration, and long-term strategic planning. We invite policymakers, administrators, academicians, industry leaders, civil society organizations, development practitioners, and citizens to engage thoughtfully with the ideas presented in this report. While no single document can provide definitive solutions to every developmental challenge, we believe the recommendations contained herein provide a strong and practical foundation for shaping Telangana's future.

I invite you to read this report with an open mind, critically examine its recommendations, and join us in the collective endeavour to build a prosperous, innovative, sustainable, and globally competitive Telangana for generations to come.

Dheeraj G. N.
Chairman
Youth Peace and Development (YPD) Forum
New Delhi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD Forum) expresses its sincere gratitude to all individuals whose dedication, expertise, and commitment made the preparation of **The Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the State of Telangana** possible.

This report forms part of a larger national initiative undertaken through the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDF Council), constituted by the YPD Forum to facilitate the fast-track preparation of comprehensive development frameworks for all 28 States of India. The Council represents the Forum's commitment to promoting evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning, and long-term developmental thinking across the nation.

The Forum places on record its deep appreciation to **Dheeraj G. N.**, Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his vision, leadership, and initiative in conceptualizing and guiding this ambitious project. The Forum also extends its heartfelt thanks to **Aravind Saj**, Vice Chairman of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, for his constant support and encouragement throughout the execution of this initiative.

Special appreciation is due to **Aman Chauhan**, Resource Person of the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks, for his valuable coordination support. The Forum further acknowledges the contributions of **Monish Krishna**, Secretary-General of the Youth Peace and Development Forum, whose administrative leadership, organizational support, and commitment have been instrumental in the successful implementation of the Council's activities.

The Youth Peace and Development Forum also records its appreciation for the dedicated incharges of the Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks: **Pranav P, Suraj Kumar, Akshit Dehariya, Meeth R, Mihikha Mathur, Rishi Gurug, Vishvesh, Kashinath Rajagopal, Siddhart Singh Solanki**, and **Tanvi Harivanam**. Their research efforts, intellectual contributions, teamwork, and commitment to public policy and development studies have significantly strengthened the quality and substance of this report.

The Forum acknowledges the commitment, intellectual curiosity, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by each member of the Council. Through research, analysis, discussion, drafting, review, and continuous engagement with developmental issues, these members contributed significantly to the realization of the Council's objectives. Their willingness to dedicate their time and talents to a national developmental initiative reflects a commendable spirit of public service and constructive citizenship.

The Forum also recognizes that the preparation of a comprehensive development framework requires engagement with a wide range of ideas, perspectives, and sources of knowledge. Accordingly, sincere appreciation is extended to all researchers, academicians, policy experts, development practitioners, government publications, statistical agencies, think tanks, and

public institutions whose work provided valuable insights and reference material for this report. Their contributions to the broader body of knowledge on governance, economics, social development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public policy have enriched the quality and depth of this framework.

The Youth Peace and Development Forum is particularly grateful to the students, young researchers, and volunteers associated with the Forum who continue to demonstrate that youth can play a constructive role in addressing national challenges. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to public causes embody the ideals upon which the Forum was founded and reaffirm the importance of empowering younger generations to participate actively in nation-building.

The Forum further extends its appreciation to all well-wishers, supporters, advisors, and stakeholders who encouraged this initiative and contributed to its successful completion. Whether through guidance, feedback, consultation, or moral support, their contributions helped strengthen the quality and relevance of this work.

This report represents more than a policy document; it reflects a collective effort to envision a better future. It is the product of shared aspirations, collaborative research, and a common belief that informed planning and constructive dialogue can contribute to meaningful social, economic, and institutional progress. While the recommendations contained herein are intended to support the development of **Telangana**, they also form part of a broader national effort to strengthen the foundations of a developed, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous India.

As India advances towards the centenary of its independence in 2047, the Youth Peace and Development Forum remains committed to fostering research, dialogue, and innovation in support of national development. It is hoped that this report will serve as a useful resource for policymakers, administrators, researchers, civil society organizations, industry leaders, and citizens, and that it will contribute meaningfully to the ongoing pursuit of inclusive growth, good governance, and sustainable development.

With gratitude to all who contributed to this endeavour, the Youth Peace and Development Forum proudly presents this report as a modest contribution towards the shared vision of a stronger **Telangana** and a developed India.

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PREFACE

The administrative evolution of Telangana over its first twelve years reflects a deliberate departure from the unified regulatory paradigms of the past, as the state sought to carve out a distinct institutional identity that could simultaneously sustain a global tech capital and revitalize a distressed agrarian interior. In the immediate aftermath of the 2014 bifurcation, the newly formed government faced the monumental task of disentangling assets, liabilities, and bureaucratic personnel from the legacy structures of Andhra Pradesh.

This required not merely a division of office space, but a fundamental reimagining of public service delivery, leading to an aggressive drive toward digital governance and administrative decentralization. The creation of new districts, increasing the count from the original ten to thirty-three, was designed to bring the state apparatus closer to a historically marginalized citizenry. However, this rapid structural expansion placed an immense strain on the state's nascent civil service cadres and created a permanent demand for capital expenditure to establish new district headquarters, administrative blocks, and local judicial infrastructure. As the state navigates its second decade, the initial euphoria of statehood has given way to the complex, grinding realities of institutional consolidation, where the challenge is no longer just building new institutions, but ensuring their long-term fiscal viability, regulatory autonomy, and operational efficiency in a rapidly shifting federal landscape.

Central to Telangana's contemporary policy discourse is the profound spatial asymmetry between the hyper-developed Hyderabad metropolitan region and the remaining thirty-two districts, a structural imbalance that complicates the state's overarching developmental narrative. The capital city and its surrounding urban agglomeration act as an economic gravity well, drawing the vast majority of private capital, high-skilled labor, and infrastructure investments, while generating an overwhelming share of the state's own tax revenues through information technology exports, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and real estate premiums.

Conversely, the hinterland remains heavily reliant on public welfare interventions and an agrarian economy that, despite massive state-led irrigation projects like the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, remains structurally vulnerable to monsoon variability, volatile commodity markets, and escalating input costs. This stark urban-rural divide manifests not only in per capita income disparities but also in divergent human development outcomes, as rural districts face persistent challenges in public health infrastructure, quality secondary education, and non-farm employment generation. The state's long-term planning framework, therefore, must confront the reality that a state cannot sustainably achieve its macroeconomic targets if its prosperity remains confined to a single geographic corridor, necessitating a policy pivot toward developing secondary urban growth engines like Warangal, Nizamabad, and Khammam.

Compounding these regional disparities is the precarious nature of Telangana's fiscal architecture, which has come under intense scrutiny from federal monitoring bodies and

independent economic analysts alike. The state's aggressive pursuit of capital-intensive infrastructure assets and expansive, universal social security nets over the past decade was financed through a combination of budgetary allocations and heavy reliance on off-budget borrowings, channeled through state-owned public sector undertakings. While these investments successfully transformed the state's irrigation capacity and power availability, they also led to a sharp escalation in the state's debt servicing obligations, effectively crowding out discretionary spending for crucial social sectors like primary healthcare and technical education.

The projected trajectory of the state's debt-to-GSDP ratio, as highlighted by NITI Aayog, signals that the fiscal space for purely populist welfare measures is rapidly contracting, forcing the administration to balance political imperatives with strict fiscal discipline. To stabilize its financial foundations without triggering an economic slowdown, Telangana must aggressively widen its non-tax revenue base, rationalize its subsidy regimes, and transition toward a more transparent accounting framework that accurately reflects its total liabilities, thereby restoring investor confidence and ensuring compliance with federal fiscal responsibility targets. Overlaying these socio-economic challenges is the escalating threat of climate vulnerability, which directly jeopardizes the long-term sustainability of Telangana's agricultural and urban infrastructure. The semi-arid landscape of the Telangana plateau is increasingly subjected to extreme weather anomalies, ranging from prolonged dry spells that deplete groundwater tables to intense, localized rainfall events that overwhelm urban drainage systems and cause severe crop damage.

The state's heavy financial commitment to lift irrigation schemes, while mitigating immediate water scarcity, has introduced a high degree of energy dependence, as pumping vast quantities of water across varying elevations requires an immense and continuous supply of electricity, further complicating the state's carbon footprint and energy economics. In urban centers like Hyderabad, rapid and often unregulated real estate expansion has led to the encroachment of natural water bodies and wetlands, significantly elevating the risk of catastrophic urban flooding and straining municipal resilience. Addressing these overlapping vulnerabilities requires the Integration of climate-adaptive strategies directly into the state's development framework, mandating a shift toward climate-resilient crop diversification, decentralized water harvesting, sustainable urban zoning laws, and a deliberate transition toward renewable energy sources to power the state's massive administrative and industrial operations through 2047.

Tanvi Harivanam

In-charge, Telangana Development Framework Project
Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks
Youth Peace and Development Forum

Executive Summary

Telangana, formed in 2014 as India's twenty-ninth state, has emerged as one of the country's fastest-growing state economies, with a Gross State Domestic Product estimated at ₹17.82 lakh crore for 2025-26, reflecting year-on-year growth of 10.7 percent and a contribution of 4.99 percent to India's national GDP (Deccan Chronicle, 2026). Per capita income crossed ₹4 lakh for the first time in 2025-26, reaching ₹4,18,931, a figure that NITI Aayog (2025) places at roughly 70 percent above the national average as of 2021-22. This growth has been overwhelmingly services-led, with the sector contributing 61.3 percent of gross state value added in 2021-22, compared to a 22-state average of 51 percent, while industry's share, at 20.8 percent, trails the comparable state average of 29.3 percent (NITI Aayog, 2025).

The state's population is estimated at approximately 38.67 million as of mid-2026, making it India's thirteenth most populous state, with a population growth rate of roughly 0.43 percent, among the lowest of any major state (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026). Telangana's total fertility rate has fallen to 1.8 children per woman as of the National Family Health Survey round conducted in 2019-21, below replacement level, pointing toward an accelerating demographic transition and a shrinking window for the state to capitalize on its working-age population share before the onset of population aging (Grokikipedia, 2026). Fiscally, the picture is more contested. The state government's own budget for 2025-26 targets a fiscal deficit of 3.0 percent of GSDP, alongside a thin revenue surplus of 0.2 percent of GSDP, down from 0.4 percent in the revised estimates for 2024-25 (PRS Legislative Research, 2026). NITI Aayog's independent assessment is more pointed, warning that a persistently high primary deficit and a substantial stock of contingent liabilities, equivalent to roughly 12 percent of GSDP as of 2021-22, are likely to push the debt to GSDP ratio onto an increasingly unsustainable path over the next five years absent corrective measures (NITI Aayog, 2025).

On social indicators, the state government has reported a maternal mortality ratio of 43 and an infant mortality rate of 18, both significantly below the corresponding all-India figures of 88 and 25 respectively, alongside a stated ambition to raise health expenditure to 8 percent of GSDP by 2047 as part of a shift from curative to preventive healthcare (Siasat, 2026). Agriculture, while a declining share of GSDP, remains central to rural livelihoods, with the state recording foodgrain production of 236.87 lakh metric tonnes in the most recent reporting period and a state budgetary allocation of ₹26,684 crore to the sector in 2025-26 (Deccan Chronicle, 2026). The state's long-term planning is now organized around the Telangana Rising Vision 2047, which sets interim and terminal targets of a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, structured through a polycentric development model referred to as the CURE-PURE-RARE framework, intended to distribute growth beyond the Hyderabad metropolitan core (KPI AS Academy, 2026). Realizing this vision will require the state to address several structural constraints identified throughout this report: a widening rural-urban and Hyderabad-versus-rest-of-state development gap.

Chapter 1: State Profile — Geography, Demography and Society

1.1 Geographic and Ecological Characteristics of the State

Telangana occupies the north-western portion of peninsular India's Deccan plateau, sharing borders with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to the north, Karnataka to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the south and east (Government of Telangana, 2024). The state covers a geographical area of 1,12,077 square kilometers, making it the eleventh-largest state in India by area (World Population Review, 2026). The terrain is predominantly a semi-arid plateau, sloping generally from north-west to south-east, drained principally by the Godavari and Krishna rivers and their tributaries, including the Manjira, Musi, Maner, and Bhima. This riverine geography has historically shaped the state's irrigation systems, most notably the extensive network of tanks constructed under successive dynasties, many of which remain in use, in varying states of repair, for command area irrigation today.

Topographically, the state can be divided into three broad zones: the northern and north-eastern forested and hilly tracts bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, home to much of the state's Scheduled Tribe population and forest cover; the central plateau, characterized by black cotton and red soils and dominant paddy and cotton cultivation; and the Hyderabad-centered urban core and its surrounding districts, which have absorbed the bulk of the state's industrial and services investment since bifurcation. Major cities beyond the capital include Warangal, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Khammam, and Karimnagar (Government of Telangana, 2024).

Ecologically, Telangana's forest cover is concentrated in the Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and Mulugu districts, which together form part of the larger Central Indian forest landscape and host wildlife corridors connecting to neighboring Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. The state's climate is classified as semi-arid to sub-humid, with average annual rainfall heavily dependent on the south-west monsoon, and increasingly erratic monsoon patterns in recent years have raised concerns among state agricultural planners about the reliability of rain-fed cultivation, a theme this report returns to in Chapter 14 on climate vulnerability. Summer temperatures across the plateau routinely exceed 40 degrees Celsius in districts such as Adilabad and Ramagundam, and heat stress has become an increasingly prominent public health and labor productivity concern, particularly for outdoor and agricultural workers.

1.2 Administrative Divisions: Districts, Divisions and Sub-State Units

Telangana's administrative geography has undergone substantial reorganization since bifurcation. At formation in 2014, the state comprised 10 districts inherited from the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. In October 2016, the state government undertook a major redistricting exercise that expanded this to 31 districts, later increased further to 33 districts, a structure that remains broadly in place as of 2026 (PopulationU, 2026). This redistricting was intended to bring administration closer to citizens, shorten travel distances to district

headquarters, and create smaller, more manageable units for planning and service delivery, though it has also increased administrative overhead and, according to some state finance department assessments, added to committed expenditure through the proliferation of district-level bureaucratic structures.

Below the district level, Telangana's administrative hierarchy runs through revenue divisions, mandals, and, at the rural local government level, gram panchayats organized under a three-tier Panchayati Raj structure of gram panchayats, mandal parishads, and zilla parishads. Urban areas are governed through a hierarchy of municipal corporations, of which the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation is by far the largest, encompassing the core city along with adjoining municipalities and panchayats across five districts, namely Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy, Medak, and Medchal-Malkajgiri (PopulationU, 2026). Below the tier of large municipal corporations sit smaller municipal councils and nagar panchayats serving the state's secondary towns.

This administrative architecture has direct implications for development planning, examined in depth in Chapter 12. The proliferation of districts since 2016 has, in principle, allowed for more granular planning and monitoring, but has also fragmented the resource base available to each unit, and several district administrations formed post-2016 continue to report capacity constraints in professional and technical staffing.

1.3 Demographic Structure: Population, Density, Growth and Composition

Telangana's population is estimated at 38,665,000, or approximately 38.67 million, as of July 1, 2026, according to projections derived from the Technical Group on Population Projections under India's National Commission on Population (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026). This makes Telangana the thirteenth most populous state in India and the fourth most populous in South India. The state's population growth rate for 2026 is projected at approximately 0.43 percent, among the four lowest of any Indian state, with the state adding roughly 166,000 people over the course of the year (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026). This is a marked deceleration from the 13.58 percent decadal growth rate recorded between 2001 and 2011, the last full census period for which the region has confirmed data, and reflects the state's advanced position in the demographic transition.

The sex ratio for 2026 is projected at 101.014 males per 100 females, implying approximately 19.43 million males and 19.24 million females, a gap of roughly 195,000 (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026). This figure differs somewhat from the 2011 Census sex ratio of 988 females per 1,000 males, or 101.225 males per 100 females, and analysts attribute the shift partly to differential migration patterns, with Hyderabad's information technology and services economy drawing large numbers of male migrant workers from other states (KPI AS Academy, 2026).

Age structure data indicates a state still within its demographic dividend window but approaching its later stages. Under the 2011 Census, approximately 27 percent of the

population fell in the 0 to 14 age group, 64 percent in the working-age 15 to 59 group, and 9 percent aged 60 and above, producing a median age of roughly 25 years (Grokikipedia, 2026). More recent estimates for 2025 suggest the working-age share has risen to approximately 70.2 percent, exceeding earlier Technical Group projections of around 67 percent, driven by the state's below-replacement total fertility rate of 1.8 children per woman as recorded in the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2019-21 (Grokikipedia, 2026). This combination, a still-large working-age cohort but a fertility rate well under replacement level, means Telangana's dividend period is finite, and the state's own planning documents increasingly reference the need to maximize productive absorption of the current workforce before the dependency ratio begins rising again in the 2030s and 2040s.

Population density, given the state's land area of 1,12,077 square kilometers and a 2026 population of roughly 38.67 million, works out to approximately 345 persons per square kilometer on a state-wide average, though this masks enormous internal variation, from the extremely dense Hyderabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, where the Hyderabad district itself is effectively 100 percent urbanized, to the sparsely populated forested districts of Mulugu and Narayanpet, which remain 92 to 96 percent rural (KPI AS Academy, 2026).

Urbanization has proceeded rapidly since bifurcation. The 2011 Census recorded an urban population share of 38.88 percent, and more recent estimates place this at approximately 47.6 percent as of 2023, with a trajectory toward roughly 49 percent by 2025, driven overwhelmingly by continued expansion of the Hyderabad metropolitan region, whose population is projected to reach approximately 11.3 million by 2025 (Grokikipedia, 2026). This concentration of urban growth in a single metropolitan core is a recurring theme across multiple chapters of this report, from investment climate in Chapter 4 to urban governance in Chapter 11, and represents one of the more significant structural imbalances in the state's development pattern.

1.4 Linguistic, Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Profile

Telugu is Telangana's principal official language, spoken by approximately 77 percent of the population, with Urdu serving as the second official language and spoken by roughly 12 percent, reflecting the region's Deccani cultural heritage under successive Qutb Shahi, Mughal, and Asaf Jahi Nizam rule prior to its integration into the Indian Union (World Population Review, 2026). A further 13 percent of the population speaks other languages, including Marathi and various tribal languages concentrated in the northern forested districts bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

Religious composition, based on the most recent comprehensive data from the 2011 Census with subsequent state-level survey updates, shows Hindus constituting approximately 85 percent of the population, Muslims approximately 12.6 to 12.7 percent, and Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists together comprising the remaining share, with Christians at roughly 1.3 percent (World Population Review, 2026; PopulationU, 2026). Hyderabad, as the state's historic capital under Muslim rule for over two centuries, retains the largest concentration of

the state's Muslim population and remains a significant center of Deccani Muslim culture, including its distinctive Hyderabad Urdu dialect, cuisine, and architectural heritage.

The state's Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations are demographically and politically significant. Under the 2011 Census, Scheduled Castes numbered 5,408,111, or 15.43 percent of the state's population, while Scheduled Tribes numbered 3,196,334, or 9.13 percent (Grokopedia, 2026). More recent data from the state government's 2024 Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste survey, commonly referred to as the SEEPC survey, places these shares somewhat higher, at 17.43 percent for Scheduled Castes and 10.45 percent for Scheduled Tribes, though methodological differences between census enumeration and the state survey caution against direct comparison (Grokopedia, 2026). Applying these updated shares to the 2025 population estimate of approximately 38.5 million yields an estimated Scheduled Caste population of roughly 6.71 million and a Scheduled Tribe population of roughly 4.02 million.

Tribal communities in Telangana are concentrated in specific regional clusters: the Gond and Kolam communities in Adilabad district, the Khond and Savara communities across Karimnagar, Warangal, and Khammam, the Chenchu community in the forested tracts of the former Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts, and the Konda Reddi community along the banks of the Godavari river (PopulationU, 2026). These communities' rights, welfare, and forest dwelling status are addressed in detail in Chapter 7.

1.5 Human Development Index: State Ranking and Trend Analysis

Comprehensive, current sub-national Human Development Index rankings for Indian states are compiled infrequently and with substantial time lags, and no fully updated official HDI ranking specific to 2026 was identified in the sources reviewed for this report. This represents a genuine data gap that this framework flags rather than fills with estimation. What is available is proxy evidence through per capita income, health outcomes, and other component indicators discussed throughout this report: a per capita income roughly 70 percent above the national average as of 2021-22 (NITI Aayog, 2025), a maternal mortality ratio of 43 against an all-India figure of 88, and an infant mortality rate of 18 against an all-India figure of 25 (Siasat, 2026). These component indicators suggest a state performing well above the national median on standard human development proxies, consistent with Telangana's historical placement among India's higher-HDI states in past composite assessments, though a rigorous, current composite ranking should be sourced from the next official release of NITI Aayog's or the UNDP's sub-national human development reporting when available.

1.6 Poverty, Inequality and Multidimensional Deprivation Indices

As with the Human Development Index, this report was unable to locate a specific, current, 2026-dated multidimensional poverty figure for Telangana in the sources reviewed. NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, last comprehensively updated using National Family Health Survey rounds, has historically placed Telangana among the

better-performing southern states on multidimensional deprivation, though updated state-specific figures for the 2025-26 period should be verified against NITI Aayog's next official release before being cited in policy contexts. This report recommends that subsequent editions of this framework incorporate the most recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index release once published, along with district-level breakdowns where available. given the sharp intra-state disparities documented elsewhere in this chapter.

1.7 Intra-State Disparities: Aspirational Districts and Backward Region Identification

Telangana's development pattern since bifurcation has been marked by pronounced intra-state disparity, with growth concentrated overwhelmingly in the Hyderabad metropolitan region and its immediately surrounding districts. The state's own long-term planning response to this imbalance is the CURE-PURE-RARE polycentric development framework embedded within the Telangana Rising Vision 2047, which explicitly aims to distribute growth beyond Hyderabad through differentiated regional development models: a Core Urban Region Economy focused on knowledge economy and innovation activities, alongside complementary frameworks intended to extend growth corridors into peripheral and rural regions (KPI AS Academy, 2026). The government's stated adoption of this model reflects an implicit acknowledgment that the default trajectory of investment and job creation would otherwise continue concentrating in and around the capital.

Several of the state's northern and southern districts, including those with high tribal populations such as Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, and Mulugu, along with several districts carved from the former Mahbubnagar region, continue to register development indicators below the state average across education, health infrastructure, and per capita income, though granular, current district-level composite indices were not available in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Planning Department's district-level statistical abstracts for a fully rigorous treatment in future editions of this framework.

1.8 State's Position in National Rankings Across Key Development Indicators

Telangana's national standing varies considerably by indicator. On economic scale, the state contributes 4.99 percent of India's GDP as of 2025-26, up from 4.8 percent in 2021-22, ranking it among the larger contributing states relative to its population share of roughly 2.70 percent of India's total population (Deccan Chronicle, 2026; NITI Aayog, 2025). On per capita income, the state's nominal per capita income of 70 percent above the national average as of 2021-22 places it among the more prosperous major states, alongside Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana (NITI Aayog, 2025). On fiscal health, however, the state's position is comparatively weaker: NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index and related assessments flag Telangana's debt trajectory,

Chapter 2: Fiscal Architecture of the State

2.1 Revenue Framework: Own Tax Revenue, Non-Tax Revenue and Devolution

Telangana's revenue base has grown steadily since bifurcation, though its composition reveals a structural dependence on a narrow set of tax handles. For 2025-26, the state budgeted total revenue receipts of ₹2,29,721 crore, comprising own tax revenue of ₹1,45,420 crore, or roughly 63.3 percent of revenue receipts, non-tax revenue of ₹31,619 crore, or 13.8 percent, the state's share in central taxes of ₹29,900 crore, or 13.0 percent, and grants-in-aid of ₹22,783 crore, or 9.9 percent (Metro India, 2026). Own tax revenue grew by 12 percent over the revised estimate for 2024-25, and stood at approximately 8.1 percent of GSDP for 2025-26, marginally above the 7.6 percent recorded in actuals for 2023-24 (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). For 2026-27, own tax revenue is budgeted at ₹1,48,186 crore, an increase of 11 percent over the revised estimate for 2025-26, though as a share of GSDP this represents a decline to 7.6 percent, continuing a pattern in which nominal tax collections rise even as their share of a faster-growing GSDP base contracts (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b).

Within own tax revenue, State Goods and Services Tax has emerged as the single largest source, projected to account for approximately 35 percent of own tax revenue in 2026-27, with SGST collections expected to grow by 5 percent over the revised 2025-26 estimate (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). Stamps and registration fees, closely tied to the state's active real estate and property markets concentrated around Hyderabad, rose from ₹14,295 crore in 2023-24 to an estimated ₹19,087 crore in 2025-26, while vehicle taxes rose from ₹7,094 crore to ₹8,535 crore over the same period, reflecting continued growth in automobile sales and transport activity (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a). State excise revenue is projected to grow by 17 percent in 2026-27 over the revised 2025-26 estimate, continuing its position as a reliably buoyant, if socially contested, revenue source (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b).

Devolution from the Centre remains a meaningful but proportionately modest share of the state's resources. In 2025-26, the state's share in central taxes was estimated at ₹29,900 crore, an 11 percent increase over the revised 2024-25 estimate, with income tax devolution projected at ₹11,140 crore, CGST devolution at ₹8,704 crore, and corporation tax devolution at ₹8,349 crore (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a). For 2026-27, this rises further to an estimated ₹33,182 crore, a 13 percent increase (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). Grants from the Centre have proven considerably more volatile: the revised estimate for 2024-25 came in 8 percent below the budgeted figure, driven by an 80 percent reduction in special assistance grants, and for 2025-26 the state anticipates a further shortfall of 51 percent against budget estimates for centrally sponsored scheme grants, with only ₹8,529 crore expected to be received against a budgeted ₹15,727 crore (PRS Legislative Research, 2025, 2026b). This volatility in central transfers has become an important source of budgetary uncertainty for state planners, and it underscores the importance of the own-resource growth documented above as a buffer against fluctuations in Centre-State transfers.

Overall, of the total resource envelope projected for 2026-27, approximately ₹1,83,916 crore, or 76 percent, is expected to be raised through the state's own resources, with the remaining ₹57,348 crore, or 24 percent, coming from the Centre in the form of tax devolution, roughly 14 percent of revenue receipts, and grants, roughly 10 percent (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). This four-fifths reliance on own resources places Telangana toward the more fiscally self-sufficient end of the spectrum of Indian states, though this self-sufficiency also means the state bears a greater share of the burden when its own revenue growth slows.

2.2 Expenditure Profile: Composition, Quality and Efficiency

Total expenditure, excluding debt repayment, was estimated at ₹2,84,837 crore for 2025-26, a 14 percent increase over the revised 2024-25 estimate, rising further to ₹3,01,209 crore for 2026-27, a 15 percent increase over the revised 2025-26 estimate (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a, 2026b). Revenue expenditure has grown from ₹1,68,514 crore in 2023-24 to a projected ₹2,26,982 crore in 2025-26, while development expenditure, spanning growth-oriented sectors, rose from ₹1,12,868 crore to a projected ₹1,78,688 crore over the same period. Non-development expenditure, by contrast, is projected to remain comparatively contained, moving from ₹55,645 crore to ₹48,283 crore, suggesting a deliberate reprioritization toward development spending within a growing overall envelope (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a).

Sectoral allocation data for 2025-26 reveals a pattern that departs from the average of India's other states in some notable respects. Telangana allocated 9.0 percent of its total expenditure to education in 2025-26, compared to a 31-state average of 15.0 percent, and 4.8 percent to health, compared to an average of 6.2 percent (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). Rural development received 4.1 percent of total expenditure in the same year. These below-average allocations to core human capital sectors, even amid overall expenditure growth, represent a structural feature of the state's spending pattern that recurs as a concern in the education and health chapters of this report, Chapters 5 and 6 respectively, and merits close monitoring given the state's stated ambition, noted in the Executive Summary, to raise health expenditure to 8 percent of GSDP by 2047.

A persistent concern flagged in successive CAG State Finance Audit Reports and echoed in NITI Aayog's assessment is the rising share of committed expenditure, meaning salaries, pensions, and interest payments, which increasingly constrains the discretionary fiscal space available for new development spending. Debt servicing alone is estimated to account for 20 to 25 percent of the state's revenue receipts as of the 2025-26 fiscal year, with average monthly interest outgo exceeding ₹2,300 crore between April and October 2025 (The South First, 2025). Interest payments as a share of revenue receipts stood at roughly 14.4 percent in the same period, a mid-tier figure among major states, lower than Punjab's 25.3 percent or Kerala's 21.7 percent, but nonetheless a rising claim on the state's resources (Metro India, 2026).

2.3 Capital Expenditure: Infrastructure Investment and Asset Creation

Telangana has, notwithstanding its fiscal pressures, maintained a comparatively strong record on capital expenditure relative to other general category states. A CAG-referenced evaluation found that the state's capital expenditure of ₹333.71 billion exceeded its own budget estimate of ₹293.13 billion in the year examined, with capital expenditure's share of total expenditure at 28.22 percent, considerably higher than the corresponding figure for Andhra Pradesh, a neighboring general category state (Fifteenth Finance Commission, evaluation study, n.d.). More recent budget documents indicate that the state's fiscal deficit, which finances capital investment rather than routine revenue spending, is explicitly framed by the state finance department as the more sustainable form of borrowing when compared to revenue account borrowing (Metro India, 2026).

On a broader cross-state comparison basis using 2023-24 audited data, Telangana's combined revenue and capital development expenditure stood at 11.1 percent of GSDP, a mid-range figure among general category states, below Chhattisgarh's 19.9 percent and Bihar's 19.3 percent, but above Maharashtra's 8.5 percent and Kerala's 6.3 percent (Metro India, 2026). This positioning suggests a state investing in infrastructure and asset creation at a rate broadly proportionate to its size and growth trajectory, though not at the exceptional pace of some lower-income, high-transfer states that are working from a smaller developed-infrastructure base.

2.4 Fiscal Deficit, Primary Deficit and Debt Sustainability

Telangana's fiscal deficit has consistently tracked close to, and at times above, the central government's permitted ceiling of 3 percent of GSDP for states. For 2025-26, the fiscal deficit was budgeted at 3.0 percent of GSDP, or ₹54,010 crore, but the revised estimate came in higher, at 3.2 percent of GSDP (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). For 2026-27, the fiscal deficit is targeted at 3 percent of GSDP, or ₹58,459 crore, a reduction from the 2025-26 revised estimate (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). Revenue surplus, meanwhile, has proven thin and volatile: budgeted at ₹2,738 crore, or 0.2 percent of GSDP, for 2025-26, the revised estimate for that year came in at just ₹591 crore, or roughly 0.03 percent of GSDP, a shortfall of 78 percent against the budgeted figure (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). For 2026-27, the state budgets a somewhat improved revenue surplus of ₹6,858 crore, or 0.3 percent of GSDP (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b).

On the underlying stock of debt, the CAG's most recent State Finances Audit Report found that Telangana's outstanding public debt stood at ₹3,91,881 crore as of March 31, 2025, equivalent to 23.88 percent of the state's GSDP of ₹16,40,901 crore for that year, placing the state in the 20 to 30 percent of GSDP debt category (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). The CAG further noted that outstanding debt had increased more than fourfold over the preceding decade, from ₹91,985 crore in 2015-16 to ₹3,91,881 crore in 2024-25, and that total liabilities had grown by 357 percent over the decade, substantially above the all-state average growth of 190 percent (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). Including broader outstanding liabilities beyond

public debt narrowly defined, PRS Legislative Research estimates outstanding liabilities at 28.3 percent of GSDP for the revised 2025-26 estimate, rising to 28.7 percent for 2026-27 (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b).

NITI Aayog's independent debt sustainability analysis takes a considerably more cautionary view of the medium-term trajectory. It concludes that Telangana's debt path is predictably unsustainable given a primary deficit to GSDP ratio of between 2.0 and 2.5 percent, projecting that the debt to GSDP ratio will rise by nearly eight percentage points over five years in the baseline scenario, before accounting for the state's substantial contingent liabilities (NITI Aayog, 2025). Independent journalistic analysis of debt trends through the 2025-26 fiscal year found net additions to liabilities of ₹50,000 to ₹60,000 crore in just the first seven to eight months of the year, with cumulative debt estimated to have reached ₹8.10 to ₹8.25 lakh crore by that stage, alongside gross market borrowings potentially reaching ₹1.45 lakh crore for the full year, though the state government attributes much of this gross figure to refinancing rather than net new borrowing (The South First, 2025).

2.5 State's Borrowings, Guarantees and Off-Budget Liabilities

Contingent liabilities, principally in the form of state government guarantees extended to public sector undertakings and special purpose vehicles to enable their borrowing, represent one of the most significant fiscal risks identified across every independent assessment reviewed for this report. The CAG's most recent audit found that Telangana's outstanding guarantees stood at ₹2,41,528 crore as of March 31, 2025, the highest level in the state's history and more than nine times the roughly ₹26,000 crore recorded a decade earlier (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). Critically, the CAG identified Telangana as the only Indian state where outstanding guarantees exceeded 10 percent of GSDP, an outlier position among all states audited (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). PRS Legislative Research's independent tracking corroborates this, placing outstanding guarantees at ₹2,41,743 crore as of February 28, 2026, equivalent to 14 percent of the state's GSDP (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b).

The state government has stated that it has substantially curtailed fresh off-budget borrowing, reporting additions of as little as ₹2,302 crore in one recent year, a marked departure from the pre-2023 pattern of extensive off-budget financing through state-owned special purpose vehicles (The South First, 2025).

However, the CAG has cautioned that loans extended by the state to these special purpose vehicles specifically to allow them to service their earlier off-budget debt are, in substance, shifting what were previously off-budget liabilities onto the state's own budget, a practice that understates the true improvement in the state's off-budget exposure even as it improves headline off-budget borrowing figures (The South First, 2025). The state also continued to rely on short-term Ways and Means Advances, with ₹5,841.95 crore outstanding at the end of the most recently audited financial year (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b).

2.6 Finance Commission Awards: Allocation and Utilisation

Telangana's position within the vertical and horizontal devolution framework has evolved with each successive Finance Commission. The Sixteenth Finance Commission, covering the period 2026 to 2031, has retained vertical devolution to states at 41 percent of the divisible pool, while introducing a modified horizontal formula that incorporates a state's contribution to national GDP as a 10 percent weighted criterion, a change that has worked in Telangana's favor given its above-average per capita income and economic scale, raising the state's horizontal share from 2.102 percent to 2.174 percent (Metro India, 2026).

Grants recommended for Telangana under the Sixteenth Finance Commission for the 2026-31 period include ₹11,548 crore for urban local bodies, ₹9,968 crore for rural local bodies, and ₹2,774 crore for disaster management (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). Notably, the Sixteenth Finance Commission has discontinued several grant categories that Telangana had previously received under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, including revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b), a change that removes a source of fiscal cushioning the state had relied upon and places greater weight on the state's own revenue mobilization and the local body grants that remain.

Under the Fifteenth Finance Commission's award period, Telangana's urban and rural local bodies received basic and performance grants intended respectively to fund basic service delivery and to incentivize compliance with accounting, audit, and disclosure norms, structured as a Basic Grant alongside a smaller Performance Grant released over a multi-year window (Fifteenth Finance Commission, evaluation study, n.d.). The degree to which these grants translated into measurable improvements in local body service delivery capacity is examined further in Chapter 12 of this report.

2.7 GST Implementation: Revenue Impact and Compensation Status

The compensation mechanism that accompanied the Goods and Services Tax's introduction in 2017, guaranteeing states a 14 percent annual revenue growth rate over a 2015-16 base for a period of five years, formally lapsed at the end of its mandated window. For Telangana, this transition has meant that continued own-tax revenue growth has had to come from the underlying buoyancy of State GST and other tax handles rather than from a compensation backstop. As noted in section 2.1, SGST has grown into the largest single component of the state's own tax revenue, projected at approximately 35 percent of own tax revenue for 2026-27, with growth of 5 percent projected over the revised 2025-26 estimate (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b). This relatively modest growth rate in SGST collections, compared to the double-digit growth seen in stamps, registration, and excise revenues over the same period, suggests that GST buoyancy alone is not currently the primary driver of the state's overall tax revenue expansion, a finding that has implications for the composition of future tax policy discussed further in Chapter 3.

2.8 Public Financial Management Reforms and Audit Compliance

The CAG's State Finance Audit Reports, prepared annually under Article 151 of the Constitution for submission to the Governor and the state legislature, provide the principal independent check on the quality of Telangana's public financial management. These reports have consistently flagged gaps between the state's fiscal targets under the Telangana Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005, as amended in 2011, 2020, and 2021, and its actual performance. An assessment covering the period 2017-18 to 2021-22 found that the state met its revenue deficit target in only two of five years, met its fiscal deficit target in only two of five years, and met its outstanding liabilities target in three of five years (NITI Aayog, 2025). A separate CAG-based evaluation found that in one audited year, the state's revenue surplus was overstated by ₹67.78 billion and its fiscal deficit understated by ₹25.00 billion relative to CAG's own recalculation, and that the state's actual fiscal deficit that year exceeded the limit prescribed under the FRBM framework (Fifteenth Finance Commission, evaluation study, n.d.).

More recent CAG commentary, covering the audit period through March 2025, has continued to combine positive and cautionary findings. On one hand, the CAG's report characterized Telangana as a front-ranking revenue-generating state, reflecting the strength of the state's own-tax mobilization documented in section 2.1 (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). On the other hand, the same report's findings on guarantees, contingent liabilities, and the debt growth rate over the preceding decade, summarized in sections 2.4 and 2.5, represent some of the most pointed fiscal risk findings issued for any Indian state in the current audit cycle. Taken together, these audit findings suggest a state with genuinely strong revenue-raising capacity that has, over the decade since its formation, financed an ambitious development and welfare agenda through a combination of that revenue growth and a rapidly expanding, increasingly guarantee-heavy liability structure whose long-term sustainability remains an open and actively monitored question.

2.9 Centre-State Fiscal Relations: Trends and Themes

Telangana's fiscal relationship with the Centre has been shaped by three recurring themes over the past several years. First, volatility in central grants, particularly for centrally sponsored schemes, has introduced a meaningful degree of budgetary unpredictability, with shortfalls against budgeted grant estimates of 8 percent in 2024-25 and a projected 51 percent in 2025-26 (PRS Legislative Research, 2025, 2026b). Second, the state's improved position under the Sixteenth Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula, driven by the new GDP-contribution weighting, reflects a partial recognition at the central level of Telangana's above-average economic contribution, even as the same Commission has withdrawn other grant categories the state had previously relied upon. Third, the discontinuation of GST compensation and the general lapse of the pandemic-era revenue guarantees have shifted the burden of revenue growth back onto the state's own tax and non-tax instruments, reinforcing the importance of the own-resource mobilization strategies discussed throughout this chapter.

Looking ahead, the central fiscal policy challenge facing Telangana, as this report's subsequent chapters on economic structure, investment, and social sector spending will repeatedly return to, is reconciling three simultaneously true facts: the state possesses genuinely strong and growing own-revenue capacity; its debt and, in particular, its contingent liability position have deteriorated to a degree that multiple independent auditors now treat as an outlier risk among Indian states; and its allocations to core human capital sectors, education and health, currently trail the average of its peer states even as its long-term development vision depends on precisely those sectors for realizing its 2047 goals.

Chapter 3: Economic Structure, Growth and Sectoral Performance

3.1 Gross State Domestic Product: Trends, Growth Rate and Sectoral Share

Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product at current prices was estimated at ₹17.82 lakh crore for 2025-26, up from ₹16.09 lakh crore in the preceding year, registering a growth rate of 10.7 percent and raising the state's contribution to India's GDP from 4.87 percent to 4.99 percent (Hyderabad Mail, 2026). A related budget-side estimate places 2025-26 GSDP at current prices at ₹18,00,325 crore, equivalent to approximately US\$209.10 billion, with the state's GSDP having grown at a compound annual growth rate of 11.13 percent between FY19 and the 2025-26 budget estimate (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026; PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). Over the longer run since bifurcation, Telangana's real GSDP grew at an average annual rate of 7.2 percent between 2014-15 and 2021-22, compared to a national average of 5.6 percent over the same period, and separate analysis places the state's average annual growth rate closer to 13.9 percent in nominal terms over the most recent five-year window (NITI Aayog, 2025; Wikipedia, 2026).

The sectoral composition of this growth has shifted decisively toward services. As of 2025-26, the services sector accounts for 68.6 percent of total state output, compared to a national average of 56.4 percent, and grew by 13.5 percent year-on-year, considerably faster than either the primary sector, which grew by 1.4 percent, or the secondary sector, which grew by 9.4 percent (Hyderabad Mail, 2026). Official gross state value added data for 2021-22 similarly shows services contributing 61.3 percent of GSVA, against a states' average of 51 percent, with the largest sub-components being real estate, ownership of dwellings and business services at 23 percent, and trade, hotels and restaurants at 16.2 percent (NITI Aayog, 2025). Industry's share of GSVA stood at 20.8 percent in 2021-22, below the states' average of 29.3 percent, driven primarily by manufacturing at 12.1 percent, with smaller contributions from construction at 4.5 percent, mining and quarrying at 2.4 percent, and electricity at 1.8 percent (NITI Aayog, 2025). Agriculture's share of GSVA stood at 18 percent in 2021-22, marginally below the states' average of 19.7 percent (NITI Aayog, 2025).

At the district level, Rangareddy ranks first in total output, followed by Hyderabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri, reinforcing the pattern of geographic concentration documented in Chapter 1 (Hyderabad Mail, 2026). Tertiary sector growth has been the fastest of the three broad sectors on a compound annual basis, expanding at 7.98 percent between 2011-12 and 2024-25, a rate that substantially outpaces both the primary and secondary sectors over the same period (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

3.2 Per Capita Income and Purchasing Power Analysis

Telangana's per capita income crossed ₹4 lakh for the first time in 2025-26, reaching ₹4,18,931, up from a base in which the state's nominal per capita income already stood at roughly 70 percent above the national average as of 2021-22 (KPI AS Academy, 2026; NITI

Aayog, 2025). This places Telangana among the more prosperous major Indian states on a per capita basis, alongside Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana, and reflects the concentration of high-value services activity, particularly information technology and life sciences, within the state's economic base. Inflation in the state was reported as contained at 0.2 percent as of the 2025-26 fiscal year, according to the Governor's address to the state legislature, a figure that, if sustained, would represent a substantially more benign price environment than the national average and would meaningfully support real purchasing power gains associated with the nominal per capita income increase (KPI AS Academy, 2026). This inflation figure should nonetheless be treated with some caution pending independent verification against the Consumer Price Index series maintained by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, and is addressed further in section 3.8.

The distributional dimension of this per capita income growth, meaning how evenly it is shared across the state's districts and income groups, is not fully captured by a single state-wide average. As documented in Chapter 1, roughly 54 percent of the state's GDP is estimated to originate from the Greater Hyderabad Metropolitan Region, meaning per capita income in the capital region substantially exceeds that of the state's more agrarian northern and southern districts (Wikipedia, 2026). This concentration is examined further in section 3.9 and in Chapter 4.

3.3 Primary Sector: Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Agriculture and allied activities remain central to rural livelihoods in Telangana even as their share of GSVA has declined over time, from an estimated 17 percent at the state's formation in 2014-15 to 18 percent of GSVA in 2021-22 under revised sectoral accounting (NITI Aayog, 2025; Testbook, 2023). The sector accounts for a disproportionate share of employment relative to its output share: agriculture and allied activities account for 66.15 percent of rural employment and 47.34 percent of the state's overall workforce participation as of the most recent reporting period (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

Within the primary sector, the composition has shifted meaningfully toward livestock in recent years. As of 2025-26, livestock accounts for 41.4 percent of primary sector output, ahead of crop production at 38.2 percent, with the balance made up of mining, quarrying, and allied activities (Hyderabad Mail, 2026). This represents a shift from the historical pattern in which crops constituted the larger share, for instance 53 percent of the agriculture and allied sector against livestock's 42 percent as of 2016-17 (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2019). Livestock and fisheries together contributed ₹1.11 lakh crore to the state economy as of the 2025-26 reporting period cited by the state government, and Telangana ranks as the eighth-largest state in India by livestock population, with the sector's stability during drought years serving as an important buffer for farm households against crop-sector volatility (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a; researchgate-hosted livestock study, n.d.).

Foodgrain production reached a record 236.87 lakh metric tonnes in the most recent reporting period, and the state government allocated ₹26,684 crore to the agriculture sector in the

2025-26 budget (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a). The state's irrigated area stood at 73 lakh acres as of 2023, with government plans to expand irrigation coverage by an additional 50 lakh acres over the following two to three years, a target examined further in Chapter 18 alongside the state's broader irrigation infrastructure discussed in Chapter 10 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

3.4 Secondary Sector: Industry, Manufacturing and Mining

Telangana's industrial sector, while smaller as a share of GSVA than the states' average, has developed particular strength in a small number of high-value manufacturing sub-sectors, most notably pharmaceuticals. As of the most recent data available, manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal, clinical, and botanical products constitutes approximately 29 percent of gross value added within the state's manufacturing sector, and pharmaceuticals, alongside other non-metallic mineral products, rubber and plastic products, electrical equipment, and food products, together account for roughly 54 percent of total fixed capital investment within manufacturing (Testbook, 2023). The life sciences sector more broadly has attracted investments worth ₹73,360 crore and created more than one lakh direct jobs as of the 2025-26 reporting period, with pharmaceutical exports from the state reaching ₹52,144 crore in FY25 (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

The state's broader export basket is dominated by engineering goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, and organic and inorganic chemicals and electronic goods, with total exports reaching ₹1,69,269 crore, or approximately US\$19.12 billion, in FY25 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026). Manufacturing's share of the workforce stood at 10.3 percent as of the 2022-23 Periodic Labour Force Survey, a figure that has remained relatively stable even as the sector's contribution to GSVA has grown modestly (NITI Aayog, 2025). Industrial parks developed around Hyderabad, including HITEC City for software and information technology units, the Apparel Park at Gundlapochampalli, the Export Promotion Park at Pashamylaram, and the biotechnology park at Turkapally, continue to anchor the state's secondary sector investment, alongside the planned Hyderabad Pharma City, envisioned as an integrated pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical devices ecosystem (Wikipedia, 2026; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026).

3.5 Tertiary Sector: Trade, Finance, Real Estate and Services

The tertiary sector is, as established in section 3.1, the dominant driver of Telangana's economy, contributing 68.6 percent of total output in 2025-26 (Hyderabad Mail, 2026). Within services, information technology and IT-enabled services remain the single most significant sub-sector, with Hyderabad, nicknamed Cyberabad for its concentration of software and technology firms, holding a leading position nationally in IT and ITeS production and exports (Wikipedia, 2026). Real estate, ownership of dwellings, and business services together constitute the largest single services sub-component at 23 percent of GSVA as of 2021-22, closely tied to the stamps and registration revenue growth documented in Chapter 2, followed by trade, hotels, and restaurants at 16.2 percent (NITI Aayog, 2025).

More recent growth has been particularly notable in emerging services segments. The state government's Governor, in the 2026 address to the legislature, highlighted growth in Global Capability Centres and cited 9.39 lakh jobs associated with the broader information technology and services ecosystem, alongside a newly launched Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 targeting ₹15,000 crore in investment and three lakh jobs (KPI AS Academy, 2026; Deccan Chronicle, 2026a). Financial services, professional and technical services, and communication services have also registered sustained double-digit growth, continuing a pattern first documented in state economic surveys from the mid-2010s in which public administration, communication, real estate, and trade and hospitality services each grew at double-digit average annual rates (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2019).

3.6 Informal Economy: Size, Significance and Integration Challenges

Comprehensive, current, state-specific data quantifying the size of Telangana's informal economy was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and this represents a genuine data gap consistent with the broader national challenge of measuring informal economic activity. What can be inferred from available labour market data is that a substantial share of the state's workforce operates outside formal employment arrangements. National Periodic Labour Force Survey data for 2025 indicates that self-employment accounted for 56.2 percent of workers at the all-India level, only a modest decline from 57.5 percent in 2024, with regular wage or salaried employment rising correspondingly from 22.4 percent to 23.6 percent (Press Information Bureau, 2026a). Given Telangana's above-average concentration of formal-sector information technology and pharmaceutical employment relative to other states, the state's informal employment share may plausibly be somewhat below the national figure, though this inference should be treated as indicative rather than as a verified state-specific statistic, and future editions of this framework should incorporate state-disaggregated PLFS data or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation formalization statistics once available.

The integration challenge for Telangana's informal economy centers on the same rural-urban and sectoral divide documented throughout this chapter: a large share of the rural workforce remains engaged in agriculture and allied activities, discussed in section 3.3, where formal wage employment is limited, while urban informal employment is concentrated in construction, retail trade, and personal services clustered around the Hyderabad metropolitan economy.

3.7 Labour Market: Employment, Unemployment and Workforce Quality

State-specific unemployment data for Telangana disaggregated from the national Periodic Labour Force Survey was not directly available in the sources reviewed for this chapter, and this report relies on national benchmarks as context while flagging the need for state-disaggregated figures in future editions. At the all-India level, the unemployment rate for persons aged 15 and above stood at 3.2 percent in 2024 under current weekly status, essentially stable from 3.1 percent in 2023, while youth unemployment, covering the 15 to 29 age group, declined to 9.9 percent in 2025 from 10.3 percent in 2024, with rural youth

unemployment falling to 8.3 percent and urban youth unemployment falling to 13.6 percent over the same period (Press Information Bureau, 2025, 2026a).

Labour force participation has trended upward nationally in recent years, rising in rural areas from 50.7 percent in 2017-18 to 63.7 percent in 2023-24, and in urban areas from 47.6 percent to 52.0 percent over the same period, driven substantially by rising female participation (Press Information Bureau, 2024). Within Telangana specifically, the workforce remains concentrated in agriculture, forestry and fishing, services, manufacturing, and construction, consistent with the sectoral employment shares documented in sections 3.3 and 3.4 (NITI Aayog, 2025). On workforce quality, national data indicates that persons aged 15 and above had completed an average of 10.0 years of formal education as of 2025, with 67.8 percent having attained at least secondary education, a figure that likely understates Telangana's position given the state's stronger-than-average higher education and technical training infrastructure, examined in Chapter 5 (Press Information Bureau, 2026a).

3.8 Inflation, Price Stability and Consumer Welfare

The state government's reported inflation figure of 0.2 percent for 2025-26, cited in the Governor's address to the legislature, is a notably low figure relative to typical Consumer Price Index inflation readings for Indian states and should be treated with appropriate caution pending cross-verification against the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's state-level CPI series (KPI AS Academy, 2026). If accurate, such a low inflation rate would represent a favorable environment for consumer welfare and would meaningfully amplify the real income gains associated with the per capita income growth documented in section 3.2. This report recommends that future editions verify this figure directly against MoSPI's CPI-Rural and CPI-Urban state series for Telangana, given the significance of price stability for the welfare assessments made throughout this framework, particularly in Chapter 6 on nutrition and Chapter 7 on social protection.

3.9 Growth Corridors: Engines of Economic Expansion

Telangana's growth has been substantially concentrated within specific geographic corridors radiating from Hyderabad, a pattern the state's own long-term planning documents explicitly acknowledge and seek to address. The Telangana Rising Vision 2047 document, prepared in consultation with NITI Aayog, the Indian School of Business, and NALSAR University of Law, introduces the CURE-PURE-RARE polycentric development framework specifically to extend growth corridors beyond the capital region rather than allow continued concentration around Hyderabad (KPI AS Academy, 2026; Deccan Chronicle, 2026a).

Within the existing growth pattern, district-level output data confirms that Rangareddy, Hyderabad, and Medchal-Malkajgiri, the three districts constituting the core of the Greater Hyderabad Metropolitan Region, together generate an estimated 54 percent of the state's GDP (Hyderabad Mail, 2026; Wikipedia, 2026). Emerging growth corridors identified in recent state investment activity include the life sciences and pharmaceutical cluster anchored around the planned Hyderabad Pharma City, the tourism corridor associated with the newly launched

Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 and its 30 major projects, and continued expansion of data center and Global Capability Centre investment tied to the state's information technology ecosystem (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026; KPI AS Academy, 2026). The degree to which these initiatives succeed in generating growth outside the Hyderabad core, as opposed to reinforcing it, will be a key determinant of whether the state's stated ambition of balanced regional development, examined further in Chapter 4 and Chapter 20, is realized over the coming decade.

Chapter 4: Investment, Industry and Private Sector Development

4.1 Investment Climate Assessment and Ease of Doing Business

Telangana's investment climate has, since the state's formation, been organized around a single-window clearance system, TS-iPASS, which the state's official investment promotion agency describes as rated among the best in the country for industrial approvals (Invest Telangana, 2026). The state recorded GSDP growth of 14.9 percent in 2018-19, a figure the state's investment portal continues to cite as evidence of its position as India's fastest-growing state economy in that period, and the more recent growth performance documented in Chapter 3, including 10.7 percent GSDP growth in 2025-26, has sustained this positioning into the current decade (Invest Telangana, 2026; Hyderabad Mail, 2026).

At the national level, India's broader ease of doing business environment has continued to improve, reflected in the country's rise to 38th position among 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025, up from 81st in 2015 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). State-specific ease of doing business rankings for Telangana in the current 2025-26 cycle were not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, a gap this framework flags for future editions once the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade releases its next Business Reform Action Plan ranking. What is documented is that industry commentary continues to note that while national and state governments have made progress on ease of doing business, further reform is needed to streamline compliance across tax, labour, data protection, and intellectual property regulation, a challenge that applies to Telangana's investment climate alongside that of other major states (International Bar Association, 2026).

4.2 Industrial Policy Framework and MSME Development

The state's principal industrial policy instrument is T-IDEA, the Telangana State Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship Advancement policy, which provides investment subsidies on fixed capital investment, State GST reimbursement, power cost reimbursement, and interest subsidies for micro, small and medium enterprises, alongside land cost rebates in notified industrial parks and stamp duty and registration fee reimbursements (Kireeti Consultants, 2026). The policy places specific emphasis on creating quality infrastructure, promoting investment zones and industrial corridors, and building capacity among women and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs, alongside targeted support for exports and clean technology adoption (TGFPS, 2026).

For larger investments, the policy provides for customized incentive packages tied to investment scale, with a threshold of ₹100 crore or greater capital investment, or projects creating more than 1,000 direct jobs, in sectors such as food processing qualifying for enhanced mega-project incentives, alongside provisions incentivizing raw material procurement from within the state, including from Farmer Producer Organisations and Self-Help Groups (TGFPS, 2026). The Telangana MSME Promotion Policy 2024 builds on this framework, offering a further range of subsidy and incentive benefits specifically

targeted at reducing MSME project costs and improving their access to credit, marketing support, technology upgradation, and cluster-based development (KIP Financial Consultancy, 2026). District Industries Centres provide the primary institutional channel through which MSMEs access technical guidance, financial support, and regulatory facilitation under this framework (Kireeti Consultants, 2026).

4.3 Large and Anchor Industries: Sectoral Analysis

As documented in Chapter 3, pharmaceuticals and life sciences constitute Telangana's most developed large-industry cluster, with the sector attracting ₹73,360 crore in investment and generating more than one lakh direct jobs, and pharmaceutical exports reaching ₹52,144 crore in FY25 (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). Information technology and IT-enabled services represent the state's other principal anchor industry, with the state targeting ₹3 lakh crore in IT and ITeS exports by 2026 alongside the creation of one million technology jobs, building on a base in which IT and ITeS exports had already doubled between 2016 and 2021 (Invest India, 2026).

Within this technology-anchored economy, Global Capability Centres have emerged as a particularly significant and fast-growing category of large-scale private investment. Hyderabad alone recorded the inauguration of 70 new GCCs in 2024-25, the highest of any Indian city that year, and the state is targeting 120 new GCCs by 2026, with a specific policy emphasis on high-end research and development and artificial intelligence-driven operations (D&B, 2025; Law.asia, 2026). Industry composition within Telangana's GCC base is led by technology and IT functions at 42 percent, followed by consulting and services at 30 percent, engineering and manufacturing at 12 percent, healthcare and pharmaceuticals at 8 percent, banking and financial services at 6 percent, and retail and e-commerce at 1 percent (D&B, 2025). By function, technology centres account for the largest share of GCC activity in the state at 31 percent, followed by innovation and research and development hubs at 22 percent, delivery centres at 20 percent, and shared service centres at 12 percent (D&B, 2025). The state's IT sector and GCC ecosystem are explicitly identified by state and industry sources as central to Telangana's ambition of reaching a one-trillion-dollar economy (International Bar Association, 2026).

A further emerging anchor sector is digital infrastructure, specifically data centres. In April 2025, NTT DATA and Neysa Networks signed a memorandum of understanding with the Telangana government to invest US\$1.18 billion in a 400 megawatt artificial intelligence-driven data centre cluster in Hyderabad, one of the larger single data centre investment commitments announced in any Indian state during the current investment cycle (MarkNtel Advisors, 2026).

4.4 Special Economic Zones, Industrial Corridors and Clusters

Telangana's industrial geography remains organized around a set of established parks and corridors concentrated in and around Hyderabad, including HITEC City for information technology and software units, the Apparel Park at Gundlapochampalli, the Export Promotion

Park at Pashamylaram, and the biotechnology park at Turkapally, alongside the planned Hyderabad Pharma City, envisioned as an integrated smart industrial ecosystem for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device manufacturing (Wikipedia, 2026; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). The state has also actively pursued the development of dedicated commercial real estate zones tailored specifically for IT and GCC operations, offering scalable space solutions that allow rapid expansion, with commercial property rental rates in Hyderabad running 20 to 30 percent below those in Bengaluru, a cost advantage that continues to draw expanding technology and services investment to the state (D&B, 2025).

A notable and explicit policy priority in the current period is the extension of this cluster model beyond Hyderabad into tier-two cities within the state, particularly Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad. Warangal has attracted operations from firms including LTI Mindtree, Genpact, and Cyient, aided by its proximity to Hyderabad and the presence of the National Institute of Technology Warangal, while Karimnagar has seen the inauguration of a dedicated IT Tower to accommodate technology startups and service providers, and Nizamabad has developed IT incubation infrastructure (D&B, 2025). The state government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the ITServe Alliance aimed at creating 30,000 jobs in these tier-two towns over a five-year period, representing a concrete institutional mechanism for the polycentric development ambitions described in Chapters 1 and 3 (D&B, 2025).

4.5 Foreign Direct Investment: Inflows, Sectoral Distribution and Policy

According to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Telangana received foreign direct investment inflows of ₹1,23,057 crore, or approximately US\$13.90 billion, over the period from October 2019 to June 2025 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This inflow has been closely tied to the sectoral concentrations documented elsewhere in this chapter, with information technology, pharmaceuticals, and increasingly artificial intelligence and data infrastructure representing the principal draws for foreign capital. The state's digital infrastructure sector in particular has seen substantial recent foreign investment commitment, exemplified by the NTT DATA and Neysa Networks data centre investment noted in section 4.3, alongside broader national-level foreign investment momentum in India's technology and infrastructure sectors, including Bharti Airtel's partnership with Google to establish an artificial intelligence hub with an associated investment of approximately ₹1,25,000 crore, or US\$15 billion, over 2026 to 2030, albeit located in neighboring Andhra Pradesh rather than Telangana itself (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a).

At the national policy level, several developments in the 2025-26 period are likely to have positive spillover effects for Telangana's foreign investment climate, including the Union Budget 2026-27's expansion of safe harbour thresholds for transfer pricing from ₹300 crore to ₹2,000 crore, intended to reduce tax-related uncertainty for multinational operations such as GCCs, and the ongoing negotiation of free trade agreements with Israel and the Gulf Cooperation Council, both of which include provisions relevant to technology,

manufacturing, and services trade (V3 Staffing, 2026; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a).

4.6 Public Sector Undertakings: Performance and Reform Agenda

Comprehensive, current, consolidated performance data for Telangana's state public sector undertakings was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags rather than fills with estimation. What is documented, and directly relevant to any assessment of the state's public sector undertaking framework, is the fiscal exposure these entities create through the government guarantee mechanism examined in Chapter 2. As noted there, the CAG's most recent audit found outstanding state government guarantees, extended primarily to public sector undertakings and special purpose vehicles to enable their borrowing, of ₹2,41,528 crore as of March 31, 2025, more than nine times the level recorded a decade earlier, and identified Telangana as the only Indian state where such guarantees exceeded 10 percent of GSDP (Deccan Chronicle, 2026b). This finding indicates that the state's public sector undertaking and special purpose vehicle ecosystem has become deeply intertwined with the state's broader debt sustainability position, and any reform agenda for these entities will need to address not only their operational performance but also the scale of contingent liability they represent to the state exchequer.

4.7 Public-Private Partnership Framework and Pipeline

Telangana's public-private partnership activity has been most visible in infrastructure and urban services delivery. In waste management, a 14.5 megawatt Waste to Energy plant utilizing Refuse Derived Fuel commenced operations in Dundigal in March 2024, and by May 2024 had consumed approximately 0.75 lakh metric tonnes of RDF while generating approximately 25.39 million units of electricity, while a further 500-tonne-per-day construction and demolition waste plant was in trial runs at Shamshabad, with another under construction at Thumkunta (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). In transport infrastructure, the Central Government announced in June 2025 that railway projects worth ₹42,219 crore, or approximately US\$4.77 billion, were underway in the state, including line doubling and tripling, full electrification, and station upgrades, projects that typically combine central and state funding with private construction and, in some cases, operational partnership (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

In tourism, the state's newly launched Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 encompasses 30 major projects with total investment of ₹15,000 crore, structured to draw substantially on private capital alongside state facilitation, and is projected to generate approximately 50,000 jobs (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). These examples suggest a public-private partnership pipeline that is active but sector-specific, concentrated in waste management, transport, and tourism infrastructure, rather than a single consolidated cross-sectoral PPP framework, and future editions of this report should seek out the state Finance Department's consolidated PPP project pipeline documentation, where available, for a more systematic treatment.

4.8 Regional Cooperation: Shared Region and Growth

Telangana's most significant regional cooperation dynamics involve its relationship with neighboring Andhra Pradesh, from which it was bifurcated in 2014, particularly around shared river resources, most notably the Krishna and Godavari basins, and around competition for investment in overlapping sectors such as pharmaceuticals, information technology, and now artificial intelligence infrastructure. The scale of Andhra Pradesh's competing investment commitments, such as the Bharti Airtel-Google artificial intelligence hub investment of approximately US\$15 billion in Visakhapatnam noted in section 4.5, illustrates that Telangana's investment promotion strategy operates within a competitive southern and coastal state landscape rather than in isolation (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). Beyond Andhra Pradesh, Telangana's northern districts maintain economic and infrastructure linkages with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, particularly around forest resource management and mineral extraction discussed further in Chapter 13, though no current, quantified regional cooperation framework agreement specific to these northern linkages was identified in the sources reviewed for this report.

Chapter 5: Education — Access, Quality and Future Readiness

5.1 Elementary Education: Enrolment, Retention, Dropout and Learning Outcomes

Telangana's elementary education system presents a genuinely distinctive pattern within the national data for the 2024-25 academic year, one that this report treats with appropriate caution given the data quality concerns independent analysts have raised. At the all-India level, enrolment across grades 1 to 12 fell by 7.2 percent between 2017-18 and 2024-25, and elementary enrolment specifically fell by roughly 10.9 percent between 2021-22 and 2024-25, a decline attributed variously to post-pandemic effects, migration, demographic change, and data system transitions under the newly introduced Student Data Management System (Education for All in India, 2025a). Telangana was one of only three states or union territories nationally, alongside Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Odisha, to record positive enrolment growth across grades 1 through 12 over this period, at 1.61 percent, running counter to the national trend (Education for All in India, 2025b).

On dropout specifically, independent analysis of the UDISE+ 2024-25 data has flagged Telangana, alongside Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand, as reporting zero or near-zero primary-level dropout rates, a pattern the analysis explicitly identifies as potentially indicating data inconsistencies rather than a genuine underlying achievement (Careers360, 2025). This report treats this finding as an open question requiring state-level verification rather than as a straightforward positive indicator, since a dropout rate of functionally zero is an unusual outcome even for high-performing education systems and warrants scrutiny of how Telangana's schools are recording and reporting exits from the system.

At the national level, against which Telangana's own figures should be read in the absence of granular state-specific breakdowns in the sources reviewed, dropout rates for 2024-25 improved meaningfully from the previous year, falling from 3.7 to 2.3 percent at the preparatory stage, from 5.2 to 3.5 percent at the middle stage, and from 10.9 to 8.2 percent at the secondary stage (Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). Retention rates for the same year rose to 98.9 percent at the foundational level, 92.4 percent at the preparatory level, 82.8 percent at the middle level, and 47.2 percent at the secondary level, the last figure underscoring that fewer than half of students who begin the foundational stage are retained through completion of secondary schooling nationally (Education for All in India, 2025a). Transition rates, meaning the share of students who move from one stage to the next, improved to 98.6 percent from foundational to preparatory, 92.2 percent from preparatory to middle, and 86.6 percent from middle to secondary (Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025).

Nationally, of the 1.92 crore students admitted to Class 1 in 2024-25, 80 percent had some form of pre-school experience prior to admission, up from 73 percent the previous year, reflecting growing integration between anganwadi-based early childhood care and formal schooling (Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). Girls' enrolment share rose marginally to 48.3 percent nationally in 2024-25, from 48.1 percent the year before

(Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). This report was unable to source Telangana-specific figures disaggregating these national indicators, and recommends that future editions draw directly on the state-wise tables within the UDISE+ 2024-25 report published by the Department of School Education and Literacy for a fully disaggregated treatment.

5.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education: Transition and Achievement

At the national level, the Gross Enrolment Ratio at the middle level rose from 89.5 percent in 2023-24 to 90.3 percent in 2024-25, and at the secondary level from 66.5 percent to 68.5 percent, indicating continued but incomplete progress toward universal secondary participation (Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). Separate analysis places the secondary GER at 78.7 percent and the higher secondary GER at 58.4 percent for a comparable period, though the corresponding Net Enrolment Ratios of 47.5 percent and 35.8 percent respectively point to a substantial gap between gross participation and age-appropriate enrolment, meaning a meaningful share of students at these levels are older than the expected age for their grade, typically reflecting earlier grade repetition or delayed entry (Careers360, 2025).

State-specific secondary and senior secondary transition and achievement data for Telangana was not available in the sources reviewed for this report at a level of granularity sufficient for reliable citation. Given the state's stronger-than-national elementary enrolment trend documented in section 5.1, and its above-average higher education gross enrolment ratio documented in section 5.3, it is plausible that Telangana's secondary-level transition performance is at or above the national average, but this inference should not substitute for verified state-level UDISE+ or state Board of Secondary Education data, which future editions of this framework should incorporate directly.

5.3 Higher Education: Institutional Capacity, Gross Enrolment and Quality

Telangana's higher education system has expanded substantially since the state's formation in 2014, and available data indicates the state performs above the national average on several key indicators. The state's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education stood at 40.2 percent as of the most recent reporting period, compared to a national GER of 32.5 percent for the 18 to 23 age cohort in 2025, itself up from 28.4 percent in 2021-22 (Indiadatamap, 2026). An academic study drawing on All India Survey on Higher Education data similarly concludes that Telangana has consistently performed better than the national average in terms of both enrolment growth and gender inclusiveness in undergraduate education specifically, with female participation and the Gender Parity Index showing sustained improvement since the state's formation (Kumar et al., 2026).

On institutional capacity, AISHE 2021-22 data recorded Telangana among the states with the largest concentration of colleges nationally, with Rangareddy district alone hosting 349 colleges, placing it sixth nationally among all Indian districts by college count, while Hyderabad district hosted 491 colleges (All India Survey on Higher Education, 2023). An

earlier institutional census placed Telangana's total college count at 2,252, with 54 colleges per lakh population, a density above several comparably sized states (All India Survey on Higher Education, 2013). Nationally, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu account for the largest absolute higher education enrolments, but Telangana's enrolment intensity relative to its population, reflected in its above-average GER, indicates a higher education system that, while smaller in absolute scale than the largest states, serves a larger proportion of its eligible age cohort than the national norm (Indiadatamap, 2026).

Notwithstanding these comparatively favorable enrolment indicators, the same academic literature identifies persistent quality and equity challenges within Telangana's higher education system, including disparities between rural and urban institutions, inadequate infrastructure at a meaningful share of colleges, shortage of qualified faculty, a continuing digital divide affecting access to online and blended learning resources, and weaker outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged and tribal students, the latter group facing documented barriers including inadequate academic support and cultural barriers to sustained participation (Kumar et al., 2026). These findings align with the broader national picture in which institutional expansion has outpaced improvements in faculty availability and instructional quality across many Indian states.

5.4 Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ecosystem

Reliable, current, Telangana-specific data on the scale and performance of the state's technical and vocational education and training ecosystem was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions. What can be noted from the broader national context is that AISHE data classifies Polytechnic institutions as the largest single category of Stand-Alone technical institutions nationally, accounting for 64.9 percent of Stand-Alone enrolment, with 3,599 polytechnics reporting data out of 3,865 registered nationally as of the most recent comprehensive AISHE reporting cycle available in the sources reviewed (All India Survey on Higher Education, 2023). Given Telangana's above-average concentration of pharmaceutical, information technology, and Global Capability Centre employment documented in Chapters 3 and 4, the demand-side case for a robust TVET ecosystem aligned to these sectors is strong, and the state government's MSME Promotion Policy 2024, discussed in Chapter 4, explicitly references technology upgradation and skill development as policy priorities, though quantified enrolment, completion, and placement data specific to Telangana's TVET institutions should be sourced from the state's Department of Technical Education for a rigorous treatment in future editions.

5.5 Teacher Recruitment, Training and Professional Development

At the national level, UDISE+ 2024-25 data shows continued improvement in teacher deployment efficiency, with single-teacher schools declining by approximately 6 percent and schools reporting zero enrolment declining by approximately 38 percent compared to the previous reporting year, both trends the Department of School Education and Literacy characterizes as positive signs for rationalizing teacher allocation against pupil-teacher ratios

(Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). Female representation within the national teaching workforce rose to 54.2 percent in 2024-25 (TNPSC Thervu Pettagam, 2026). Telangana-specific data on teacher vacancy rates, recruitment cycles, and in-service training coverage was not available in the sources reviewed for this report. Given that teacher vacancy and irregular recruitment cycles have been a recurring concern raised in Telangana's own legislative and civil society discourse since bifurcation, this represents an area where future editions of this framework should draw directly on the state's Department of School Education recruitment notifications and the Telangana State Level Selection Committee's data on teacher eligibility test outcomes and vacancy filling.

5.6 Digital Education, EdTech Integration and ICT in Schools

Nationally, school infrastructure related to digital learning showed marked improvement in 2024-25, with the share of schools reporting computer access rising from 57.2 percent in 2023-24 to 64.7 percent in 2024-25, a gain the Department of School Education and Literacy attributes to strengthened emphasis on integrating technology into classrooms under Samagra Shiksha and related digital infrastructure programmes (Department of School Education and Literacy, 2025). Telangana has, independent of the national UDISE+ data, been specifically cited in comparative education analysis as a positive example of digital student tracking, with one cross-state review calling for other states to draw lessons from Telangana's approach to digital tracking as part of a broader push to strengthen the Student Data Management System nationally (Education for All in India, 2025b). This suggests the state's digital education infrastructure, at least on the administrative and data-tracking side, is comparatively more developed than the national norm, though classroom-level EdTech integration and student-facing digital learning tool adoption specific to Telangana were not separately quantified in the sources reviewed.

5.7 Special Education: Children with Disabilities and Inclusive Schooling

State-specific data on enrolment, infrastructure accessibility, and learning outcomes for children with disabilities within Telangana's school system was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report. This is a significant data gap given the centrality of inclusive education to both the National Education Policy 2020 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and this framework recommends that future editions draw on the UDISE+ disaggregated data on children with special needs, published at the state level within the full UDISE+ statistical tables, alongside the state Department of School Education's specific inclusive education scheme data, to properly assess Telangana's performance in this domain. The broader question of disability rights and accessibility across the state is addressed further in Chapter 7.

5.8 State-Specific Educational Challenges and Reform Priorities

Drawing together the evidence assembled across this chapter, several priorities emerge for Telangana's education sector. First, the anomalous near-zero primary dropout figures flagged by independent UDISE+ analysts warrant direct investigation by the state's education data

systems to confirm whether they reflect genuine retention success or reporting and data-quality artifacts, given that a false-positive reading on dropout could mask real attrition and delay needed interventions (Careers360, 2025). Second, while Telangana's higher education GER of 40.2 percent compares favorably to the national 32.5 percent, the persistent equity and quality challenges documented in section 5.3, spanning rural-urban infrastructure gaps, faculty shortages, and weaker outcomes for tribal and socio-economically disadvantaged students, indicate that expanding enrolment has not been matched by proportionate gains in educational quality or equitable outcomes. Third, as noted in Chapter 2, Telangana's budgetary allocation to education stood at 9.0 percent of total state expenditure in 2025-26, against a 31-state average of 15.0 percent, a gap that, if sustained, constrains the resource base available to address the teacher recruitment, TVET expansion, and inclusive education data gaps identified throughout this chapter. Reconciling the state's comparatively strong enrolment and digital-tracking performance with this below-average fiscal commitment to education is likely to be a defining tension in Telangana's education policy through the remainder of this decade, particularly as the state pursues the ambitious human capital requirements implied by its Vision 2047 growth targets discussed in Chapters 3 and 4.

Chapter 6: Health, Nutrition and Population

6.1 Public Health Infrastructure: Facilities, Human Resources and Gaps

Telangana's public health system is organized as a three-tier structure, comprising a primary tier of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Urban Primary Health Centres delivering preventive and protective care such as immunisation and maternal care, a secondary tier of Community Health Centres, Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals handling specialised treatment, and a tertiary tier of Government General Hospitals and Teaching Hospitals providing advanced and super-speciality services (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2022). This structure has been undergoing significant expansion in the current budget cycle. For 2026-27, the state's Medical and Health Department received an allocation of ₹13,679 crore, up 10.4 percent from ₹12,393 crore the previous year, the highest allocation the department has received to date (The South First, 2026).

By the end of 2026, the state government projects that tertiary care bed capacity in government hospitals will reach 44,029, a level the state government states exceeds the Indian Public Health Standards norm of one bed per 1,000 population (The South First, 2026). Nine new government medical colleges are already operational, alongside 16 new nursing colleges and 28 new paramedical colleges (The South First, 2026). The Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, previously a grant-in-aid institution managing 12,720 beds, is being converted into a full secondary healthcare department, and three new Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences campuses are under construction at Sanathnagar, LB Nagar, and Alwal, alongside expansion of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences and the Warangal Multi Super Speciality Hospital (The South First, 2026). In 2025, the Chief Minister separately announced the addition of nearly 7,000 beds across five government super-speciality hospitals, including the redeveloped Osmania General Hospital, targeted for operational readiness by December 2025 (Medical Dialogues, 2025).

Notwithstanding this infrastructure expansion, doctors' associations and patient advocacy groups responding to the 2026-27 budget noted that the increase in spending has not yet matched needs on the ground, citing continuing staffing gaps, unpaid dues to hospitals and personnel, and missing allocations for certain existing programmes (The South First, 2026). This tension between headline infrastructure expansion and underlying human resource and operational funding gaps is a recurring theme in assessments of Telangana's public health system and mirrors a broader national pattern in which capital investment in health infrastructure has often outpaced growth in recurrent expenditure on staffing and consumables. A CAG performance audit of the state's health infrastructure, drawing on the government's own submissions, examined district hospital coverage across sampled districts including Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, and Warangal, alongside the adequacy of funding, infrastructure, and availability of drugs, medicines, and equipment, findings that collectively point to persistent, uneven gaps in infrastructure quality across the state's district-level facilities (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2022).

6.2 Epidemiological Profile: Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Burden

Comprehensive, current, Telangana-specific data disaggregating the burden of communicable versus non-communicable disease was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report. National data compiled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare tracks cases of communicable and non-communicable diseases across selected states, and this report recommends that future editions draw directly on this state-disaggregated series, alongside the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative reports produced by the Indian Council of Medical Research, to construct a rigorous epidemiological profile specific to Telangana (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). What can be noted is that the state's stated policy shift toward preventive healthcare, discussed further in section 6.8, reflects an implicit government assessment that non-communicable disease prevention, alongside continued communicable disease control, represents an increasingly central public health priority for the state.

6.3 Maternal and Child Health: MMR, IMR, Under-5 Mortality and Nutrition

Telangana has reported a maternal mortality ratio of 43 and an infant mortality rate of 18, both markedly below the corresponding all-India figures of 88 and 25 respectively, positioning the state among the better-performing major states on these core maternal and child health indicators (Siasat, 2026). These figures should be read alongside the national Sample Registration System's Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality Ratio for 2021-23, released in September 2025, which provides the authoritative comparative baseline against which state-level claims of this kind are typically benchmarked, and future editions of this framework should verify Telangana's MMR figure directly against that bulletin (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). On broader maternal health service coverage, the proportion of mothers whose last birth was protected against Neonatal Tetanus in Telangana improved from 88.8 percent under NFHS-4 to 89.6 percent under NFHS-5, a modest but positive gain (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2022).

On child nutrition, the picture emerging from NFHS-5 is considerably more concerning than the state's mortality indicators suggest. National analysis of NFHS-5 data found that the most significant increase in child stunting among all surveyed states and union territories was recorded in Tripura and Telangana, a marked reversal given that stunting had shown no significant improvement nationally since 2015 in most states (Down To Earth, 2021). Separately, Telangana was identified, alongside Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, and Mizoram, as one of the states where the prevalence of severe wasting among children under five nearly doubled between NFHS-4, 2015-16, and NFHS-5, 2019-21 (India Development Review, 2025). This finding is a significant point of concern that sits in tension with the state's comparatively strong maternal mortality and infant mortality figures, and it suggests that gains in reducing child mortality in Telangana have not been matched by proportionate gains in resolving underlying child undernutrition, particularly acute wasting. This divergence between mortality and nutritional status indicators warrants direct policy attention

and is a priority this report flags for the state's nutrition programming, discussed further in section 6.6.

6.4 Universal Health Coverage: State Health Assurance Schemes

Telangana's principal state-level health assurance mechanism for government employees is the cashless Employee Health Scheme, which as of the 2026-27 budget covers 23.51 lakh government employees, pensioners, and their families for treatment across 1,998 diseases, delivered through both government hospitals and a network of 421 empanelled private hospitals (The South First, 2026). This scheme operates alongside the central government's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana framework, which provides health coverage to economically vulnerable households nationally, and alongside Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, which form the primary healthcare delivery backbone under the national comprehensive primary healthcare rollout (PRS Legislative Research, 2026a). Comprehensive, current data on Telangana-specific enrolment and utilisation under the broader Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme, as distinct from the state's own Employee Health Scheme, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the National Health Authority's state-level PM-JAY dashboards in future editions.

6.5 Mental Health Services: Availability, Access and Stigma Reduction

Reliable, current, Telangana-specific data on mental health service availability, workforce, and utilisation was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a significant data gap given the growing national policy emphasis on mental health under the National Mental Health Programme. This framework recommends that future editions draw on the state's District Mental Health Programme implementation data and any available state-specific mental health survey findings, given the absence of verifiable Telangana-specific figures in the current research base.

6.6 Nutrition Programmes: ICDS, Mid-Day Meal and Poshan Abhiyan

Telangana's child nutrition programming operates within the national Integrated Child Development Services framework, delivered through Anganwadi Centres, alongside the PM POSHAN mid-day meal scheme in schools and the Poshan Abhiyan national nutrition mission. Nationally, Poshan Tracker data from November 2023 recorded that among approximately 7.44 crore children under six years measured, 37.51 percent were found to be stunted, 17.43 percent underweight, and 6 percent wasted, though the same national data notes that Poshan Tracker-recorded levels of underweight and wasting run below those projected by NFHS-5, a discrepancy attributable to differences in survey methodology and measurement population between the two data systems (Press Information Bureau, 2023).

Given the specific concern raised in section 6.3 regarding Telangana's disproportionate rise in child stunting and near-doubling of severe wasting between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, the effectiveness of ICDS delivery and Anganwadi-based supplementary nutrition within the state warrants particular scrutiny. National guidance issued in this period has emphasised

Poshan Vatikas, or nutrition gardens, at Anganwadi Centres to address dietary diversity gaps using traditional nutritional knowledge, alongside transparency and accountability guidelines for supplementary nutrition delivery and outcome tracking (Press Information Bureau, 2021). Whether these national interventions have been adequately scaled and adapted within Telangana specifically to address the state's documented nutrition anomaly is a question this report cannot resolve with the data currently available, and it recommends the state's Department of Women and Child Development commission a targeted assessment of ICDS delivery quality in the districts driving the state's elevated stunting and wasting figures.

6.7 Population Stabilisation and Family Planning

As established in Chapter 1, Telangana's total fertility rate stood at 1.8 children per woman under the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2019-21, below the replacement level of 2.1, placing the state firmly in the advanced stages of demographic transition (Grokopedia, 2026). This below-replacement fertility rate, combined with a population growth rate of approximately 0.43 percent projected for 2026, among the lowest of any major Indian state, indicates that population stabilisation, in the traditional sense of reducing high fertility, is largely an accomplished policy objective for the state (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026). The corresponding policy challenge for the state's family planning and reproductive health programming has consequently shifted from fertility reduction toward ensuring quality of maternal and reproductive healthcare, supporting healthy spacing and later age at first birth, and preparing health and social security systems for the population aging that a below-replacement fertility regime implies over the coming two to three decades, a theme this report returns to in Chapter 7's discussion of elderly welfare.

6.8 Health System Strengthening and Future Preparedness

Telangana's stated long-term health policy ambition, articulated within the framework of the state's broader Vision 2047 planning discussed in earlier chapters, is to raise health expenditure to 8 percent of GSDP by 2047 and to shift the system's orientation from curative to preventive healthcare (Siasat, 2026). The 2026-27 budget's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister explicitly characterised the department's increased allocation as part of this deliberate shift (The South First, 2026). Realizing this ambition will require the state to address the specific gaps identified throughout this chapter: the staffing and recurrent funding shortfalls that doctors' associations have flagged even amid infrastructure expansion, the absence of granular, current epidemiological and mental health data necessary for evidence-based preventive health planning, and, most urgently, the documented divergence between the state's strong maternal and infant mortality performance and its comparatively poor and worsening child stunting and severe wasting indicators. Addressing this last gap in particular will likely require closer integration between the state's health system strengthening agenda and its nutrition programming, examined in section 6.6, rather than treating these as separate policy tracks.

Chapter 7: Social Justice, Inclusion and Community Welfare

7.1 Scheduled Castes: Demographic Profile, Deprivation and Development Programmes

Telangana's Scheduled Caste population, estimated at 15.43 percent of the state's population under the 2011 Census and revised upward to 17.43 percent under the state's 2024 Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste survey, has been the subject of a significant recent legislative development (Grokikipedia, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). In March 2025, the Telangana government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy passed the Telangana Scheduled Castes, Rationalisation of Reservations, Bill, 2025, making the state the second in India after Haryana to sub-categorise Scheduled Castes for reservation purposes, following the Supreme Court's August 2024 ruling permitting such sub-classification on the basis of varying levels of discrimination and backwardness among different SC groups (The Wire, 2025). The sub-categorisation, informed by a one-man commission of inquiry headed by retired judge Shameem Akhter, created three groups: Group II, comprising 18 moderately benefited communities including Madigas and their sub-castes, allocated 9 percent reservation for a population share of 62.74 percent among SCs, and Group III, comprising 26 significantly benefited communities including Malas and their sub-castes, allocated 5 percent reservation for a population share of 33.96 percent among SCs (The Wire, 2025). The legislation was passed unanimously in the Assembly, though it notably did not address implementation of a creamy layer principle to exclude more affluent individuals or families from reservation benefits, a gap that had been recommended by the Akhter Commission but was not accepted in the final government position, according to debate recorded in the Assembly (The Wire, 2025). The Act awaits presidential assent as a precondition for full effect.

The state's caste survey, whose broader findings are discussed in section 7.3, additionally found that SCs, spanning 96 distinct groups, exhibited among the most significant socio-economic disadvantage of any category assessed, with major disparities in income and resource access and many SC families remaining engaged in low-income daily wage labour and agriculture (The News Strike, 2026).

7.2 Scheduled Tribes: Rights, Forest Dwelling Communities and Welfare Measures

Telangana's Scheduled Tribe population, estimated at 9.13 percent of the state's population under the 2011 Census and revised to 10.45 percent under the 2024 state caste survey, is concentrated in specific regional clusters documented in Chapter 1, including the Gond and Kolam communities of Adilabad district, the Chenchu community of the state's southern forested tracts, and the Konda Reddi community along the Godavari river (PopulationU, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). The state's caste survey found that STs, spanning 95 distinct groups, faced socio-economic hurdles comparable in severity to those documented for Scheduled Castes, placing both groups at the most disadvantaged end of the state's overall socio-economic distribution (The News Strike, 2026). Under the reservation framework established through the 2025 legislation discussed in section 7.1 and section 7.3, Scheduled

Tribes retain a 10 percent reservation, unchanged from the pre-existing framework (The Wire, 2025).

Forest rights implementation for Telangana's tribal and forest-dwelling communities intersects closely with the state's forest cover and biodiversity governance, examined in Chapter 13, given that many of the state's tribal settlements are located within or adjacent to reserved forest areas in the Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Bhadrachalam, and Mulugu districts. Comprehensive, current data on the pace and scale of individual and community forest rights title recognition under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers, Recognition of Forest Rights, Act 2006 within Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state Tribal Welfare Department's forest rights implementation data for a fuller treatment.

7.3 Other Backward Classes: Identification, Reservation and Social Mobility

The single most consequential social justice development in Telangana in the current reporting period is the completion and publication of the state's comprehensive caste survey and the subsequent legislative response. The survey found that Other Backward Classes constitute 56.36 percent of Telangana's population, a figure Chief Minister Revanth Reddy described as based on the most scientific and methodically rigorous effort undertaken to date, and on this basis the state government committed to raising BC reservation in education, employment, and political representation to 42 percent, up from the previous ceiling of 29 percent, which had included 4 percent specifically for Muslims under the BC category E (The South First, 2025).

On March 17, 2025, the Telangana State Assembly passed the Telangana Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State, Bill, 2025, envisaging the 42 percent BC reservation across local bodies, education, and employment (The South First, 2025). Combined with 15 percent for SCs and 10 percent for STs, this would raise the state's total reservation to 67 percent, considerably above the 50 percent ceiling established by the Supreme Court's 1992 Indra Sawhney judgment, meaning the legislation's ultimate implementation depends on securing constitutional protection, most plausibly through inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, a step that requires Parliament's approval (The Wire, 2025; The South First, 2025). Chief Minister Reddy has stated his intention to seek Prime Ministerial and cross-party parliamentary support for this inclusion, and has indicated the state expects the broader BC reservation process to be completed within a year of the Bill's passage (The South First, 2025).

Within the BC category itself, the caste survey identified significant internal disparity, with 86 communities found to face significant continuing backwardness while 31 communities were assessed as relatively better positioned, informing the state's stated shift toward the Samajika Nyayam 2.0, or Social Justice 2.0, framework, which the government has framed as a move toward more evidence-based, differentiated welfare targeting across education,

employment, and social security, informed directly by the granular caste survey data (The News Strike, 2026).

7.4 Gender Equity: Women's Participation in Education, Economy and Governance

Telangana's most visible current gender-focused policy intervention is the Mahalakshmi scheme, launched on December 9, 2023, within 48 hours of the incoming Congress government taking office, as one of the party's Pancha Guarantees, or five election guarantees (Govt Schemes India, 2026; News On Air, 2026). The scheme combines three benefits: a monthly direct benefit transfer of ₹2,500 to eligible women, targeting 1.28 crore women statewide and subject to an annual family income threshold of ₹2 lakh; free travel for all women, girls, and transgender persons on Telangana State Road Transport Corporation buses regardless of income eligibility; and a subsidised LPG cylinder at ₹500 per month for eligible households (Schemesinindia.in, 2026; Govt Schemes India, 2026).

The free bus travel component in particular has achieved substantial scale. As of March 2026, roughly 28 months after launch, TGSRTC reported that over 290 crore free tickets had been issued to women passengers statewide, with cumulative savings to women of approximately ₹10,000 crore in travel costs (News On Air, 2026). Transport officials noted that women, students, and daily wage workers had previously spent between ₹1,500 and ₹2,500 per month on bus fares prior to the scheme's introduction, meaning the programme represents a material and recurring transfer of household resources back to women beneficiaries (News On Air, 2026). Beginning June 2, 2026, coinciding with Telangana Formation Day, the state began transitioning from Aadhaar-based physical verification to chip-based Mahalakshmi Smart Cards for the free bus travel benefit, initially in a pilot phase covering one mandal per district before planned statewide expansion (PingTV, 2026).

Comprehensive, current data on women's labour force participation, wage gaps, and political representation specific to Telangana was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report beyond the national Periodic Labour Force Survey figures discussed in Chapter 3, and future editions should draw on state-specific PLFS breakdowns and the state Election Commission's data on women's representation in Panchayati Raj institutions and the state legislature for a fuller assessment of this domain.

7.5 Child Rights, Protection and Development: POCSO, Child Labour and Nutrition

Comprehensive, current, Telangana-specific data on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act case registration, disposal, and conviction rates, and on child labour prevalence and enforcement, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions, which should draw on the National Crime Records Bureau's state-level crime-in-India data and the state Labour Department's child labour enforcement statistics. On child nutrition specifically, Chapter 6 documents a significant concern directly relevant to child welfare and protection: Telangana recorded the most significant increase in child stunting among all NFHS-5 surveyed states and union territories, and was among the states where severe wasting among children under five nearly

doubled between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 (Down To Earth, 2021; India Development Review, 2025, as discussed in Chapter 6). This finding places child nutritional welfare squarely within the state's broader child rights and protection agenda, and this report reiterates the recommendation made in Chapter 6 that the state's Department of Women and Child Development commission a targeted district-level assessment of the drivers behind this nutritional anomaly.

7.6 Welfare of Elderly Persons: Pension, Care Infrastructure and Policy

Telangana's principal instrument for elderly income security is the Aasara Pensions framework, a state social security scheme providing direct benefit transfers to elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable categories (Schemesinindia.in, 2026). As documented further in section 7.7, the disability component of Aasara has been cited as among the most generous of any Indian state on a per-beneficiary basis. Comprehensive, current data on old-age pension amounts, coverage rates, and care infrastructure, such as old-age homes and geriatric health services, specific to Telangana's elderly population was not available at sufficient detail in the sources reviewed for this report. Given the demographic transition documented in Chapters 1 and 6, in which Telangana's below-replacement total fertility rate of 1.8 signals an accelerating population aging trend over coming decades, this represents an area warranting closer monitoring and more detailed data collection in future editions of this framework, particularly given the interaction between elderly welfare policy and the state's broader fiscal sustainability challenges documented in Chapter 2.

7.7 Persons with Disabilities: Rights, Accessibility and Empowerment

Telangana's disability pension, delivered through the Aasara Pensions framework, provides ₹3,016 per month to eligible persons with a government-certified disability of 40 percent or more whose annual family income remains below ₹1.5 lakh, a figure described in scheme documentation as the highest monthly disability pension amount of any Indian state (Schemesinindia.in, 2026). The benefit is delivered through direct bank transfer to Aadhaar-linked accounts following verification of disability certification and income proof at the Gram Panchayat or MeeSeva centre level, a delivery mechanism designed to minimise leakage and administrative friction (Schemesinindia.in, 2026). Comprehensive, current data on broader accessibility infrastructure, such as compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016's accessibility mandates for public buildings and transport, and on employment outcomes for persons with disabilities within Telangana specifically, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens in future editions.

7.8 Minority Communities: Development, Representation and Welfare

As documented in Chapter 1, Telangana's Muslim population constitutes approximately 12.6 to 12.7 percent of the state's total population, concentrated significantly in Hyderabad, reflecting the city's historical role as the seat of Deccani Muslim political and cultural life

(World Population Review, 2026; PopulationU, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). Within the state's backward classes reservation framework discussed in section 7.3, Muslims have historically received a 4 percent reservation under BC category E, and the state's stated 42 percent BC reservation target, along with the broader Samajika Nyayam 2.0 framework, is intended to extend to minority welfare planning as part of its evidence-based targeting approach (The South First, 2025; The News Strike, 2026). Comprehensive, current data on minority-specific development indicators, such as educational attainment, employment outcomes, and access to minority welfare schemes including scholarship and skill development programmes administered through the state's ePASS portal, was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Minorities Welfare Department in future editions.

7.9 Social Security and Beneficiary-Linked Welfare Architecture

Telangana's social security architecture in the current period is organized substantially around the Congress-led government's Pancha Guarantees framework, of which the Mahalakshmi scheme discussed in section 7.4 is one component, alongside the Rythu Bharosa farmer support scheme, Gruha Jyothi power subsidy, Indiramma Indlu housing scheme, and Cheyutha and Aasara pension programmes (Govt Schemes India, 2026). These schemes rely heavily on Aadhaar-linked direct benefit transfer as the primary delivery mechanism, a design choice intended to improve targeting accuracy and reduce leakage relative to earlier in-kind or voucher-based welfare delivery models. The state government's broader shift, articulated through Samajika Nyayam 2.0 and grounded in the granular findings of the 2024 caste survey, toward more differentiated, evidence-based welfare targeting across the 96 SC groups, 95 ST groups, and 117 BC groups identified in that survey, represents a structurally significant departure from the more uniform, category-wide welfare architecture that characterised the state's approach prior to the survey's completion (The News Strike, 2026). The durability and fiscal sustainability of this expanded beneficiary-linked welfare architecture, layered atop the debt and contingent liability pressures documented in Chapter 2, will be an important determinant of the state's capacity to sustain its social justice commitments through the remainder of the current government's term and beyond.

Chapter 8: Transport and Connectivity Infrastructure

8.1 Road Network: National Highways, State Highways and Rural Roads

Telangana's road network operates across three principal tiers: national highways maintained by the National Highways Authority of India, state highways maintained by the state's Roads and Buildings Department, and rural roads developed under the central Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. State highways in Telangana totaled 3,152 kilometers as of 2018, spanning all 33 districts and linking district headquarters, industrial hubs, and agricultural regions to the national highway network, with the network predominantly double-lane, at 2,484 kilometers, alongside 377 kilometers of four-lane or wider carriageway (Grokikipedia, 2026a). The Roads and Buildings Department received a budget allocation of ₹5,907 crore for 2025-26 to support infrastructure strengthening, including highway maintenance and expansion (Grokikipedia, 2026a).

On the national highway front, Telangana and neighboring Andhra Pradesh have been identified as high-activity zones for highway construction tendering, driven substantially by industrial corridor development and connectivity demands associated with the broader Chennai-Bengaluru economic corridor (TenderDekho, 2026). Nationally, the Union Budget 2025-26 allocated ₹2.71 lakh crore to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, with over 37,000 kilometers of national highway projects under execution across the country as of the current reporting period, a portion of which falls within Telangana's territory (TenderDekho, 2026).

On rural connectivity, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana marked its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2025, having sanctioned a cumulative 8,25,114 kilometers of rural roads nationally, of which 7,87,520 kilometers, or approximately 95 percent, had been completed as of December 2025 (Press Information Bureau, 2025b). For the 2026-27 financial year, the Central Government allocated ₹18,907 crore to construct 26,474 kilometers of rural roads under PMGSY and related rural connectivity initiatives, with the Rural Development Ministry directing states, Telangana among them, to fast-track pending projects with particular focus on tribal and Left Wing Extremism-affected regions (Telangana Today, 2026). Telangana is one of nine states covered under the Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas, launched in 2016 to improve infrastructure and security force mobility across 44 severely affected districts nationally, a designation reflecting the continued relevance of insurgency-affected area development in parts of the state's northern forested districts discussed in Chapters 1 and 7 (Press Information Bureau, 2025b).

Notably, ongoing state highway upgrades are being explicitly aligned with the state's industrial development priorities discussed in Chapter 4, including a 300-foot-wide highway under construction from Kongara Kalan to the Outer Ring Road to support logistics access to the planned Hyderabad Pharma City in Rangareddy district (Grokikipedia, 2026a).

8.2 Railways: Existing Network, Pending Projects and Expansion Proposals

As documented in Chapter 4, the Central Government announced in June 2025 that railway projects worth ₹42,219 crore, approximately US\$4.77 billion, were underway in Telangana, encompassing line doubling and tripling, full electrification, and station upgrades (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 4). These investments are consistent with the national pattern of prioritising capacity expansion on existing rail corridors over new line construction in already well-connected states, reflecting the freight and passenger demand pressures generated by Telangana's rapid urbanisation and industrial growth documented in earlier chapters. Comprehensive, current, granular data on specific rail project completion timelines, route-wise capacity additions, and freight corridor integration specific to Telangana was not available at sufficient detail in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw directly on South Central Railway zone project status reports for a fuller treatment.

8.3 Aviation: Airport Infrastructure and Air Connectivity

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad remains Telangana's principal aviation gateway and a significant node in the state's broader connectivity and investment strategy discussed in Chapter 4. The airport's role in the state's development planning is evident in ongoing debate over Hyderabad Metro's Phase II alignment, discussed in section 8.5, where the state government has pressed for direct metro connectivity between the airport and the emerging Bharat Future City urban development zone, indicating continued policy priority on strengthening surface access to the airport even as some previously planned airport-corridor metro stations have reportedly been reconsidered in favor of routes serving higher-density catchment areas (Swarajya, 2026; PingTV, 2026a). Comprehensive, current passenger traffic, cargo volume, and route expansion data specific to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the Airports Authority of India and GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited's traffic statistics in future editions.

8.4 Ports, Inland Waterways and Logistics Hubs

As a landlocked state, Telangana has no direct maritime port access, and its logistics strategy depends on road and rail linkages to ports in neighboring Andhra Pradesh, principally Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam, for containerized export and import trade, including the pharmaceutical and engineering goods exports documented in Chapter 3. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on inland container depot throughput, dry port development, and multimodal logistics park investment specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions, which should draw on the state's Logistics Policy documentation and the National Logistics Portal's state-level throughput data for a fuller treatment of this section.

8.5 Urban Mass Transit: Metro, Bus Rapid Transit and Integrated Mobility

Hyderabad Metro's Phase I, comprising three corridors totaling 69 kilometers built at a cost of approximately ₹22,000 crore, has been a defining piece of the city's mass transit infrastructure since its inauguration in November 2017 (HMRL, 2026). The project was originally structured as a public-private partnership with L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited holding majority equity, but this arrangement underwent a fundamental change in the 2025-26 period: after L&T sought to exit the project and rejected the state's proposed revenue-sharing model, the two parties reached agreement for the Telangana government to acquire L&T's stake for ₹15,000 crore, comprising ₹13,000 crore in outstanding loan transfer and a ₹2,000 crore payout, with the Telangana Assembly clearing a resolution formalising the takeover on March 28, 2026, and full ownership transfer targeted for completion by the end of March 2026 (Wikipedia, 2026a). This effectively converts Hyderabad Metro Phase I from a PPP-majority-private model to full state ownership, a structural shift the state government has stated is intended to enable smoother execution of Phase II expansion (Swarajya, 2026).

Phase II planning has evolved substantially over 2024 to 2026. The state government initially finalised a 70-kilometer, six-corridor expansion plan in January 2024, later refined to a 76.4-kilometer, five-corridor plan with administrative sanction of ₹24,269 crore issued in November 2024 as a joint venture between the Government of India and Government of Telangana (HMRL, 2026; AssetScan, 2026). A further Phase II-B component, covering 86.1 kilometers across three additional corridors, JBS-Medchal, JBS-Shamirpet, and a third corridor, at an estimated cost of ₹19,579 crore, received state administrative sanction in June 2025, with the Detailed Project Report submitted to the Centre the same month (AssetScan, 2026). By May 2026, the Chief Minister was pressing the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry for expedited central approval of a consolidated Phase II package spanning seven corridors and approximately 122.9 kilometers, estimated at ₹38,595 crore, while separately advocating for inclusion of an airport-to-Bharat Future City corridor under a prospective Phase III (Swarajya, 2026).

Internal planning documents reviewed by regional media in April 2026 indicated a notable realignment within this evolving plan, with several previously planned Airport Corridor stations potentially dropped in favor of redirecting the line toward the Future City development zone, a decision reportedly driven by ridership density analysis rather than the political considerations that had historically shaped metro route selection in the city (PingTV, 2026a). Separately, Wikipedia's coverage of the project notes that the historically dense and older eastern part of Hyderabad, including the ECIL corridor originally proposed and subsequently cancelled, has remained comparatively underserved by the metro network across both Phase I and the evolving Phase II plans, a pattern the source attributes to differing political priorities across successive Phase II planning cycles (Wikipedia, 2026a). Construction on the Old City corridor, running from Darulshifa to Chandrayangutta, a stretch of particular heritage sensitivity given the area's dense historic fabric, began utility mapping and demolition work through 2025 despite periodic central funding delays (AssetScan, 2026).

8.6 Multimodal Logistics: Last-Mile Connectivity and Freight Corridors

Telangana's multimodal logistics strategy is closely interwoven with the industrial corridor and Global Capability Centre investment priorities documented in Chapter 4, particularly the state's efforts to extend commercially viable logistics infrastructure into tier-two cities such as Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad. The Regional Ring Road, referenced in connection with industrial access planning in section 8.1 and Chapter 4, is intended to function as a peripheral freight and connectivity corridor around the Hyderabad metropolitan region, reducing the need for through-traffic, including freight movement, to pass through the city's congested core. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on the Regional Ring Road's construction progress, alignment finalisation, and projected completion timeline was not available at sufficient detail in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw directly on National Highways Authority of India project status updates for this corridor, given its centrality to the state's stated ambition of distributing industrial and logistics growth beyond the immediate Hyderabad core, a theme this report has returned to repeatedly across Chapters 1, 3, and 4.

Chapter 9: Energy, Power and Renewable Transition

9.1 Power Generation: Installed Capacity, Mix and Dependence Profile

Telangana's power generation capacity has expanded roughly two-and-a-half-fold since the state's formation. At bifurcation in 2014, the state's total contracted or installed capacity stood at just 6,573 to 7,778 megawatts, depending on the specific measure cited, a level state officials describe as reflecting an inherited power deficit scenario of roughly 30 percent below actual demand, accompanied by load shedding for domestic consumers and power holidays for industry (Elets eGov, 2019; Telangana Today, 2024). By December 2023, installed capacity had reached 19,475 megawatts, and the state government projected this would reach a record 25,000 megawatts by May 2025 following the commissioning of an additional 5,600 megawatts, including the 5×800 megawatt Yadadri Thermal Power Station under construction by the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited in Nalgonda district and a planned capacity expansion at NTPC's Ramagundam plant, of which Telangana is entitled to 85 percent under provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (Telangana Today, 2024).

Thermal power remains the dominant source within this generation mix, with operational coal-based thermal capacity exceeding 15,000 megawatts, anchored by large facilities including the NTPC Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station at 2,600 megawatts and the state-run Kothagudem Thermal Power Station at 1,800 megawatts (Grokikipedia, 2026b). The Singareni Collieries Company Limited is separately developing an additional 800 megawatts of thermal capacity, comprising two 600 megawatt units, at its Jaipur plant in Mancherial district (Telangana Today, 2024). Notably, the state's operational gas-based power capacity stands at zero megawatts, following the failure of earlier proposed gas projects, including a combined-cycle facility at Nedunur in Karimnagar district, due to persistent gas supply constraints, although the state's Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025 includes provisions for potential gas integration as a transitional fuel should supply conditions change (Grokikipedia, 2026b).

Hydroelectric capacity, drawn primarily from the Krishna and Godavari river systems, stood at approximately 2,441 to 2,475.76 megawatts as of the most recent reporting periods, with over 90 percent of Krishna basin hydel capacity concentrated in the Nagarjunasagar, Srisailem, Pulichintala, and Jurala projects, several of which are jointly utilised with neighboring Andhra Pradesh and have periodically been the subject of inter-state friction over water and power sharing rights (Deccan Chronicle, 2021; Grokikipedia, 2026b). Two further hydel projects, Sammakka Sagar at 240 megawatts and Sitamma Sagar at 320 megawatts, both on the Godavari, are planned to integrate power generation with irrigation stabilisation benefits for a combined 1.78 lakh hectares of command area (Grokikipedia, 2026b).

9.2 Transmission and Distribution: Infrastructure, Losses and Reliability

Telangana's transmission and distribution infrastructure is managed through TSTRANSCO for transmission and two distribution companies, TGSPDCL for southern Telangana and TGNPDCL for northern Telangana, both operating under the regulatory oversight of the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) (Electricity Guide, 2026). Historical data indicates the state made substantial early progress on loss reduction following bifurcation, with transmission losses falling from 4.3 percent in 2014-15 to 3.31 percent in 2017-18, and overall transmission and distribution losses falling from 16.24 percent in 2014-15 to 14.29 percent in 2016-17 (Elets eGov, 2019). Current, updated transmission and distribution loss figures for the 2025-26 period specific to Telangana were not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw directly on TSERC's Annual Revenue Requirement filings and tariff orders for the most current loss trajectory data.

9.3 Rural and Household Electrification: Coverage and Quality

Telangana reported 98 percent household electrification as of 2018, with the state government committing at that time to complete remaining connections by the end of that year, going beyond the earlier national benchmark of village-level electrification to pursue household-level saturation (Elets eGov, 2019). The state's most distinctive rural electrification policy achievement is its position as the first state in India to implement 24x7 free power supply to the agricultural sector, a policy that evolved from an initial 6-hour daily supply duration, extended to 9 hours in 2016-17, before full round-the-clock free supply was piloted in three districts in August 2017 and subsequently scaled statewide (Elets eGov, 2019). This policy has been central to the state government's agricultural support strategy discussed in Chapter 3, underpinning the extensive lift irrigation infrastructure, including the Kaleshwaram project's large-capacity pumping motors, that depends on reliable, subsidised power access for its operation (Deccan Chronicle, 2021).

9.4 Renewable Energy Potential: Solar, Wind, Hydro and Biomass

Telangana has emerged as a significant solar energy state within the Indian context, ranking second nationally in solar power capacity per unit area of land, supported by high average annual solar irradiation that industry assessments estimate could theoretically support up to 20 gigawatts peak of solar generation capacity (Ornate Solar, 2026). The state's installed solar capacity grew from 74 megawatts at the time of the state's formation in 2014 to 6,123 megawatts as of the most recent reporting period cited by the state government, with a cumulative installed solar capacity, including both utility-scale and rooftop installations, estimated at around 5,415 megawatts as of early 2025 under a separate industry assessment (Telangana Today, 2024; Ornate Solar, 2026). The state has set a target of reaching 20,000 megawatts of total renewable capacity by 2030, to be achieved through a combination of conventional rooftop and utility-scale solar expansion and newer approaches under the Clean and Green Energy Policy, including floating solar installations on water bodies, an approach

that avoids the land acquisition constraints associated with ground-mounted solar parks in a state with competing agricultural and forest land uses (Electricity Guide, 2026).

Wind energy remains comparatively underdeveloped relative to solar within Telangana's renewable portfolio. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited is developing a 500 megawatt wind farm spanning five districts, including Vikarabad and Adilabad, with preparatory works expedited in 2025 to make use of mining-adjacent land for renewable development, while NTPC has committed approximately ₹80,000 crore toward combined solar and wind investment in the state as part of a broader national target of developing up to 2.5 gigawatts of wind capacity (Grokikipedia, 2026b). Wind resource potential is assessed as highest in the Vikarabad, Rangareddy, and Adilabad districts, based on topographic advantages identified through ongoing site assessments by the National Institute of Wind Energy, though as of 2025 no major new wind turbines had been commissioned under either state policy or the national PM-KUSUM scheme, which remains primarily solar-focused (Grokikipedia, 2026b). Biomass and small hydro potential exist at the margins of the state's renewable portfolio, with the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation identifying broader national small hydro potential of 15,000 megawatts, of which Telangana's share, drawn from canal drops, dam toes, and river run-of-river sites, remains comparatively modest relative to the state's solar and large hydro capacity (TGREDCO, 2026a).

9.5 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand-Side Management

The Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation administers the state's energy conservation programming under the national Energy Conservation Act framework, including the Perform, Achieve and Trade scheme, the Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency initiative, and an Energy Efficiency Financing Platform intended to mobilise capital for efficiency investments (TGREDCO, 2026a). The state additionally administers annual Telangana Energy Conservation Awards, with the 2025 cycle's application deadline extended to December 14, 2025, recognising institutions and buildings for efficiency achievements under the state's building energy codes (TGREDCO, 2026a). On the demand side, TGREDCO has issued tenders in 2026 for aggregated rooftop solar installations across large public institution portfolios, including a 46,705 kilowatt aggregated capacity across 9,937 schools statewide, illustrating a shift toward institutional-scale, aggregated procurement models for public sector solar deployment rather than facility-by-facility installation (TGREDCO, 2026b).

9.6 State Electricity Regulatory Framework and Tariff Policy

The Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission governs the state's tariff-setting and regulatory framework, issuing annual tariff orders that determine the rates charged by TGSPDCL and TGNPDCL across residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial consumer categories, with the 2024-25 tariff order remaining the operative standard through the current billing cycle (Electricity Guide, 2026). Telangana's residential tariff structure uses a progressive slab system in which the per-unit rate rises with monthly consumption, supplemented by a state Electricity Duty of 6 percent applied to energy charges and a

quarterly-revised Fuel Surcharge Adjustment that allows distribution companies to recover fluctuating coal and gas procurement costs (Electricity Guide, 2026).

On rooftop solar regulation specifically, TSERC issued updated Rooftop Solar Regulations in 2025 establishing a comprehensive framework for net, gross, group, and virtual net metering, with net metering facilities guaranteed for 25 years from the date of grid connection (Mercom India, 2025). The regulations mandate smart, bi-directional metering with advanced metering infrastructure and time-of-day capability for net and group net metering installations, impose capacity restrictions limiting cumulative rooftop solar connected to any single distribution transformer to 50 percent of its rated capacity, and establish compensation mechanisms for consumers when distribution licensees fail to meet installation timelines under the TSERC Standards of Performance Regulations, 2016 (Mercom India, 2025). A further 2026 innovation permits Shared Energy Access, allowing residents of multi-unit apartment buildings in Hyderabad to draw energy credits from a single shared rooftop solar array, addressing a longstanding barrier to solar adoption in the state's dense urban housing stock (Electricity Guide, 2026). Taken together, this regulatory architecture positions Telangana's tariff and metering framework as comparatively sophisticated relative to many other Indian states, reflecting the state's stated ambition, discussed in section 9.4, of reaching 20,000 megawatts of renewable capacity by 2030 as a central pillar of its broader energy transition strategy.

Chapter 10: Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

10.1 Drinking Water Supply: Coverage, Quality and Infrastructure

Mission Bhagiratha stands as Telangana's flagship drinking water programme, launched by the Prime Minister at Komatibanda village in Medak district on August 6, 2016, with an estimated project cost of ₹42,853 crore to ₹43,791 crore depending on the source cited, financed substantially through a ₹32,000 crore state government loan (Wikipedia, 2026b). The project aims to provide piped drinking water to 2.32 crore people across 20 lakh urban households and 60 lakh rural households, drawing 53.68 thousand million cubic feet from the Godavari river and 32.43 thousand million cubic feet from the Krishna river, delivered through 1.697 lakh kilometers of piping and requiring 182 megawatts of electricity for its pumping and treatment infrastructure (Wikipedia, 2026b). More recent departmental data places current coverage at nearly 1 crore citizens across 55 lakh households, describing the network as one of the largest centralized rural water supply systems in the world (National Informatics Centre, 2026).

Service standards under the mission target 100 litres per capita per day for rural areas, 135 litres for municipalities, and 150 litres for municipal corporations, with a policy requirement that 10 percent of water drawn from all irrigation sources be reserved specifically for drinking water use (Government of Telangana, 2026a). The programme has more recently undergone a significant digital governance upgrade, with the state implementing an Enterprise WebGIS-based Water Infrastructure Management System providing end-to-end spatial visibility across the water supply value chain, from intake structures to habitation-level endpoints, including the digitisation of nearly 65,000 kilometers of in-village pipeline network in accordance with National Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines (National Informatics Centre, 2026). This system enables engineers to identify partially served habitations, tail-end supply deficiencies, and distribution inequities in real time, representing what departmental officials describe as a national benchmark in technology-enabled water governance (National Informatics Centre, 2026).

Notwithstanding this infrastructure investment, coverage and quality gaps persist, particularly in remote and tribal areas. A March 2026 statewide feedback drive by the Mission Bhagiratha Engineer-in-Chief's office, conducted under the direction of the state's Panchayat Raj and Rural Water Supply Minister, contacted Sarpanches from 12,457 of the state's 12,728 gram panchayats across sixteen service dimensions, including supply regularity, water quality, tank cleanliness, chlorination, and pipeline leakages (DD News On Air, 2026). While the review found that a majority of Sarpanches expressed satisfaction with current supply, the Minister directed officials to resolve all identified problems by April 15, 2026, and separately instructed that open wells be dug in remote villages lacking Mission Bhagiratha coverage and that check dams be constructed in tribal and agency areas ahead of the monsoon season, indicating that coverage gaps remain concentrated in precisely the tribal and forested districts identified as socio-economically disadvantaged in Chapter 7 (DD News On Air, 2026). Separately, earlier district-level assessments identified 1,342 quality-affected habitations

across nine districts, with excess fluoride affecting 967 habitations, salinity affecting 192, nitrates affecting 138, and iron contamination affecting 45, underscoring that water quality, not merely access, remains an active challenge in specific sub-regions of the state (Government of Telangana, 2026b).

10.2 Irrigation Infrastructure: Command Area, Efficiency and Water-Use Productivity

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is Telangana's largest post-formation infrastructure undertaking and is described as the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation system, comprising three barrages, 1,531 kilometers of gravity canals, 203 kilometers of tunnels, 20 lifts, 19 pump houses, and 20 reservoirs with a combined storage capacity of 147 thousand million cubic feet (KPI AS Academy, 2025). Following redesign based on Light Detection and Ranging survey findings and the construction of new barrages, the project's irrigation command area target increased from an initial 16.4 lakh acres across seven districts to 18.3 lakh acres, and separately cited at up to 45 lakh acres, across 13 to 20 districts depending on the measure used, including several of the state's drought-prone districts (KPI AS Academy, 2025; Shankar IAS Parliament, 2020). Beyond irrigation, the project supplies 40 thousand million cubic feet of drinking water to Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and numerous towns and villages, and 16 thousand million cubic feet for industrial use, feeding directly into the Mission Bhagiratha network discussed in section 10.1 (KPI AS Academy, 2025).

The project's operational footprint is substantial, requiring 7,152 megawatts of electricity to pump three thousand million cubic feet of water daily at full capacity, with 4,992 megawatts currently in use to pump two thousand million cubic feet under initial-phase operations (KPI AS Academy, 2025). The total project cost, including subsequent re-engineering and additional components, has risen to approximately ₹1.06 lakh crore, up from an original estimate of ₹80,000 crore (KPI AS Academy, 2025; Shankar IAS Parliament, 2020). The project has also been the subject of significant environmental and legal scrutiny: the National Green Tribunal ruled that the project's 2017 environmental clearance was void on the grounds that the state government's redesign, which increased pumping capacity from two to three thousand million cubic feet, constituted a major project change requiring fresh clearance, given the large tracts of forest and other land taken over and the associated infrastructure's environmental impact, a finding the state Irrigation Department stated it would abide by while pursuing the necessary clearances (Shankar IAS Parliament, 2020).

Beyond Kaleshwaram, the state has pursued additional lift irrigation expansion through projects including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Devadula Lift Irrigation Project, intended to extend irrigation potential into the state's drought-prone southern and central districts (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). The state's broader water resource base includes a historic legacy of tank-based irrigation, with the Mission Kakatiya programme specifically aimed at restoring and rejuvenating the state's thousands of traditional tanks and ponds, including landmark structures such as Hussain Sagar and Osman Sagar in Hyderabad, to improve both irrigation supply and groundwater recharge (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). As documented in Chapter 3, the state's irrigated area stood at 73

lakh acres as of 2023, with government plans to expand coverage by a further 50 lakh acres over the following two to three years, a target whose achievement depends substantially on the continued build-out of the lift irrigation infrastructure documented in this section (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 3).

10.3 Sanitation and Open Defecation Free Status: Post-ODF Sustainability

Comprehensive, current, Telangana-specific data on post-Open Defecation Free sustainability indicators, including toilet usage rates, faecal sludge management coverage, and Swachh Survekshan rankings for the state's urban local bodies, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions. Given the centrality of sanitation outcomes to the broader public health picture documented in Chapter 6, particularly the nutrition and child health concerns identified there, future editions should draw directly on the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin dashboard and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Swachh Survekshan rankings for Telangana's urban local bodies to provide a rigorous, current assessment of this section.

10.4 Solid Waste Management: Municipal, Biomedical and Hazardous Waste

As documented in Chapter 4, Telangana has made tangible progress on waste-to-energy infrastructure as part of its broader public-private partnership pipeline. A 14.5 megawatt Waste to Energy plant utilising Refuse Derived Fuel commenced operations in Dundigal in March 2024, and by May 2024 had processed approximately 0.75 lakh metric tonnes of RDF while generating approximately 25.39 million units of electricity (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 4). Complementing this, a 500-tonne-per-day construction and demolition waste processing plant was in trial runs at Shamshabad, with a further facility under construction at Thumkunta, indicating a developing, if still geographically concentrated, municipal solid waste processing infrastructure centered on the Hyderabad metropolitan region (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 4). Comprehensive, current, statewide data on municipal solid waste generation, collection efficiency, segregation rates, and biomedical and hazardous waste handling compliance across Telangana's smaller municipal corporations and councils beyond the Hyderabad core was not available in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the Telangana State Pollution Control Board's annual waste management compliance reports in future editions.

10.5 Liquid Waste and Sewerage: Urban and Peri-Urban Treatment Infrastructure

Water quality degradation from inadequate liquid waste treatment is a documented concern within Telangana's river systems, most notably the Musi river, which state geography assessments describe as facing pollution from untreated industrial and domestic waste discharge, particularly along its course through the Hyderabad metropolitan region (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). This pollution burden intersects directly with the groundwater depletion concerns documented in section 10.2, given that declining water tables in urban and peri-urban areas increase reliance on surface water sources that are themselves

subject to contamination risk from inadequately treated sewage and industrial effluent. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on sewerage network coverage, sewage treatment plant capacity and utilisation, and industrial effluent treatment compliance across Telangana's urban and peri-urban areas was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and this represents a significant data gap given the direct relevance of this infrastructure to both public health outcomes documented in Chapter 6 and the river ecosystem health themes addressed in Chapter 13. Future editions of this framework should draw on the Telangana State Pollution Control Board's river water quality monitoring data and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board's infrastructure coverage statistics for a rigorous treatment of this section.

Chapter 11: Urban Development, Housing and Smart Cities

11.1 Urbanisation Trends and Urban Governance Architecture

As documented in Chapter 1, Telangana's urban population share rose from 38.88 percent under the 2011 Census to an estimated 47.6 percent by 2023, trending toward roughly 49 percent by 2025, driven overwhelmingly by continued expansion of the Hyderabad metropolitan region (Grokopedia, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). Urban governance in the state operates through a hierarchy anchored by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, spanning parts of five districts, namely Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy, Medak, and Medchal-Malkajgiri, with smaller municipal corporations and councils governing the state's secondary towns (PopulationU, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). This concentration of urban growth within a single dominant metropolitan core, rather than a more distributed pattern of secondary city growth, is a structural feature that recurs throughout this framework, from the economic concentration documented in Chapter 3 to the metro rail planning challenges documented in Chapter 8, and represents one of the defining tensions in the state's urban development trajectory.

11.2 Urban Local Bodies: Financial Health, Capacity and Service Delivery

As documented in Chapter 2, Telangana's urban local bodies are set to receive ₹11,548 crore in grants under the Sixteenth Finance Commission for the 2026-31 award period, a sum intended to support basic urban service delivery (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b, as discussed in Chapter 2). Comprehensive, current, consolidated data on the own-revenue generation capacity, property tax collection efficiency, and service delivery performance of Telangana's urban local bodies beyond the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions, which should draw on the state Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration's consolidated urban local body finance data for a fuller treatment.

11.3 Housing: Demand Assessment, Affordability and Flagship Schemes

Housing has emerged as one of the most heavily resourced and closely tracked components of Telangana's current welfare architecture, delivered principally through the Indiramma Indlu scheme, one of the Congress-led government's Pancha Guarantees. Announced by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on March 11, 2024, the scheme provides ₹5 lakh in financial assistance for house construction to families who already own land, and both a free house site and construction assistance to landless families, with an enhanced ₹6 lakh benefit, ₹1 lakh above the standard rate, for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries (Govt Schemes India, 2026; eGovtSchemes, 2026). The scheme carries a budget of ₹22,000 crore, later cited at ₹22,500 crore in some official statements, with a first-phase target of 4.5 lakh homes distributed at approximately 3,500 per assembly constituency across all 119 constituencies (eGovtSchemes, 2026; FSCsearchin, 2025). Telangana movement activists and fighters who participated in the campaign for the state's separation from Andhra Pradesh

receive priority eligibility for a 250 square yard land allotment, a distinctive eligibility category reflecting the state's particular political history (Govt Schemes India, 2026).

Financial assistance is disbursed through a milestone-linked direct benefit transfer structure across four construction stages, namely basement level, roof or walling level, and subsequent finishing stages, with funds released on a weekly cycle to sustain continuous construction progress (eGovtSchemes, 2026; eAuctionsIndia, 2026). As of January 2025, the beneficiary list for 2.10 lakh households had been finalised and construction launched, with Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka subsequently targeting completion of 1.1 lakh houses by March 31, 2026 (FSCsearchin, 2025; eAuctionsIndia, 2026). The government has also linked the scheme to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, allowing beneficiaries constructing homes on their own land to be classified as unskilled labourers eligible for approximately 90 days of MGNREGS work at a daily wage of around ₹300, yielding an additional roughly ₹27,000 in income directly credited to beneficiary accounts on top of the core housing assistance (eAuctionsIndia, 2026).

Demand for the scheme has significantly outstripped the initial phase's capacity, with the government reporting nearly 25 lakh applicants statewide against the 4.5 lakh first-phase target, prompting a second phase, formally launched from Adilabad on June 2, 2026, coinciding with Telangana Formation Day (eAuctionsIndia, 2026; Govt Schemes India, 2026). A significant operational lesson from the scheme's first phase has directly informed second-phase design: officials found that of 42,000 houses built in earlier phases at distant peripheral locations, only about half were occupied, as beneficiaries were reluctant to relocate away from existing livelihoods, schools, and essential services (eAuctionsIndia, 2026). In response, the second phase explicitly commits to constructing housing within a 5 to 8 kilometer radius of beneficiaries' existing residential areas, and in dense urban contexts such as Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, where individual plot allotment is not feasible due to land constraints, the government has shifted toward constructing G+3 and higher multi-storey residential complexes targeting approximately 28,000 urban families by March 2026 (eGovtSchemes, 2026; Govt Schemes India, 2026). This locational course-correction represents a notable instance of evidence-based policy adjustment within the scheme's implementation.

11.4 Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT: State-Level Implementation Review

Comprehensive, current data on the implementation status, fund utilisation, and project completion rates under the national Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation specific to Telangana's participating cities was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions. Given that both missions have moved toward wind-down or transition phases at the national level in the current period, future editions should draw directly on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' city-wise completion dashboards for Telangana's designated Smart Cities, most notably Greater Hyderabad, Greater Warangal, and Karimnagar, for a rigorous assessment of this section.

11.5 Heritage Cities, Cultural Landscapes and Urban Tourism

As documented in Chapters 3 and 4, Telangana's newly launched Tourism Policy 2025-2030 encompasses 30 major projects with total investment of ₹15,000 crore, targeting approximately 50,000 jobs, with heritage and cultural tourism forming a core component of this strategy given Hyderabad's distinctive architectural and cultural legacy as the former seat of Qutb Shahi, Mughal, and Asaf Jahi Nizam rule (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapters 3 and 4). This heritage dimension intersects directly with the sensitive infrastructure planning challenges documented in Chapter 8, where Hyderabad Metro's Old City corridor construction, running through the historically dense Darulshifa to Chandrayangutta stretch, has required careful utility mapping and heritage structure documentation given the area's dense historic fabric (AssetScan, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 8). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on heritage conservation expenditure, protected monument status, and domestic and international heritage tourist footfall specific to Telangana was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Department of Heritage Telangana and the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation for a fuller treatment.

11.6 Urban Poverty, Slum Rehabilitation and In-Situ Upgradation

The urban housing component of the Indiramma Indlu scheme discussed in section 11.3 functions as Telangana's principal current instrument for addressing urban poverty and informal settlement conditions, with the scheme's urban pilot specifically targeting Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation slum families through G+3 model apartment construction, alongside continued support for completion of earlier, incomplete Double Bedroom Housing Scheme units inherited from the previous state government, at ₹5 lakh per family (FSCsearchin, 2025). The government has additionally identified government lands, slum areas, Bhoodan lands, and dilapidated housing colonies within individual assembly constituencies as target sites for new Indiramma housing construction, an approach that favors in-situ or near-situ upgradation over the peripheral relocation model that generated the low occupancy outcomes documented in section 11.3 (Govt Schemes India, 2026). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on the total scale of Telangana's urban slum population, the proportion covered by secure tenure or in-situ upgradation programmes, and outcomes for households not yet reached by the Indiramma scheme was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and this represents an important data gap given the direct relevance of urban housing security to the broader social justice and welfare themes examined in Chapter 7.

Chapter 12: Rural Development and Decentralised Governance

12.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions: Structure, Devolution and Capacity

Telangana's rural governance operates through a three-tier Panchayati Raj structure comprising gram panchayats, mandal parishads, and zilla parishads, as established in Chapter 1, with the state's 2016 and subsequent re-districting exercises expanding the number of districts from 10 to 33, a change intended to bring administration closer to citizens but which has also fragmented the resource base available to individual local government units (PopulationU, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). As of the current reporting period, Telangana comprises 12,728 gram panchayats, a figure evidenced by the statewide Mission Bhagiratha feedback exercise documented in Chapter 10, which contacted Sarpanches across nearly the entirety of this base (DD News On Air, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 10). As documented in Chapter 2, rural local bodies in Telangana are set to receive ₹9,968 crore in grants under the Sixteenth Finance Commission's 2026-31 award period, a devolution intended to strengthen gram panchayat-level basic service delivery capacity (PRS Legislative Research, 2026b, as discussed in Chapter 2).

Comprehensive, current data on own-revenue generation, staffing adequacy, and functional devolution of the 3Fs, funds, functions, and functionaries, to Telangana's Panchayati Raj institutions was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a persistent data gap common to Panchayati Raj assessments across most Indian states, and future editions should draw on the state Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department's institutional capacity assessments for a fuller treatment.

12.2 VB G-Ram-G (MGNREGA): Coverage, Wage Trends and Livelihood Outcomes

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, in operation since 2005, has provided Telangana's rural households with a legal entitlement to at least 100 days of guaranteed unskilled manual wage employment per household per financial year, with an additional 50 days available in drought or calamity-affected areas (Understand UPSC, 2025). A significant legislative development in the current reporting period is the enactment of the Viksit Bharat, G RAM G, Act, 2025, which replaces the original MGNREGA framework with a new statutory architecture explicitly aligned with the national Viksit Bharat 2047 development vision, though the scheme continues to operate under substantially similar guarantee and implementation principles as its predecessor (Vikaspedia, 2025).

For the 2025-26 financial year, effective April 1, 2025, Telangana's MGNREGA unskilled wage rate was set at ₹307 per day, an increase of ₹7 from the previous year, placing the state among the group of states, alongside Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Nagaland, that received the lowest percentage wage hike nationally in that cycle, notably below the national high of ₹400 per day recorded in Haryana (Zee Business, 2025). Separate sourcing places the state's daily wage rate at ₹300 for the same fiscal year, a discrepancy likely reflecting differences in reporting timing or rounding across sources, and future

editions should verify the authoritative figure directly against the Ministry of Rural Development's official wage notification (NregaGuide, 2026).

Nationally, MGNREGA has demonstrated sustained scale and a shift toward more productive asset creation, with person-days generated rising from 265.4 crore in FY 2019-20 to 309.2 crore in FY 2023-24, and the share of individual beneficiary works on land rising sharply from 9.6 percent in FY 2014 to 73.3 percent in FY 2024, reflecting a broader national policy shift toward asset-linked livelihood support rather than purely public infrastructure works (Drishti IAS, 2024). Women's participation in the scheme nationally rose from 48 percent in 2014 to 58 percent in 2025, exceeding the statutory minimum of one-third female beneficiaries (Understand UPSC, 2025). As documented in Chapter 11, Telangana has directly linked its Indiramma Indlu housing scheme to MGNREGA, classifying eligible housing beneficiaries as unskilled labourers entitled to approximately 90 days of MGNREGA work worth roughly ₹27,000, illustrating a deliberate state-level convergence strategy between rural employment guarantee and housing welfare programming (eAuctionsIndia, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 11). Comprehensive, current, Telangana-specific data on person-days generated, average days of employment provided per household, and unemployment allowance disbursement was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced directly from the state's MGNREGA management information system dashboard in future editions.

12.3 Rural Housing: PMAY-Gramin and State Schemes

As documented extensively in Chapter 11, Telangana's principal current rural and urban housing instrument is the state's own Indiramma Indlu scheme, which operates alongside and in some respects supersedes reliance on the central Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin scheme as the state's primary housing delivery vehicle, given the scale of state budgetary commitment, ₹22,000 to ₹22,500 crore, directed toward the state programme (eGovtSchemes, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 11). Comprehensive, current, Telangana-specific data on PMAY-Gramin coverage, completion rates, and the degree of complementarity versus overlap between the central and state housing schemes was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the Ministry of Rural Development's PMAY-Gramin state dashboard to clarify this relationship.

12.4 Livelihood Promotion: SHGs, Cooperatives and Rural Enterprise

Telangana's self-help group ecosystem, operating under the national Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission umbrella, forms part of what is now the largest community institution network in the world, with over 90.9 lakh SHGs nationally covering 10.05 crore women households as of January 2025 (PWOlyIAS, 2025). Within this national landscape, Telangana is specifically identified, alongside Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, as one of three states accounting for 60 percent of all SHG-bank credit linkage nationally, reflecting the state's comparatively mature and well-integrated SHG financial ecosystem, itself a legacy of the undivided Andhra Pradesh's pioneering Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty model (PWOlyIAS, 2025).

Telangana's flagship state-specific SHG initiative is Indira Mahila Shakti, which has moved beyond traditional micro-enterprise activities such as tailoring and petty retail into non-traditional sectors including fuel retail, public transport operation, and renewable energy, with a stated target of women's SHG groups managing 1,000 megawatts of solar power capacity under the programme (PWOOnlyIAS, 2025). This diversification strategy is consistent with the broader national research finding that SHG member households demonstrate higher spending on children's education, nutrition, and health relative to non-member households, according to World Bank research from 2022 (PWOOnlyIAS, 2025). Notwithstanding these strengths, national assessments caution that structural weaknesses persist across the SHG ecosystem more broadly, including that roughly 40 percent of SHGs nationally lack adequate training in enterprise management, and that only about 35 percent of SHGs have developed federations capable of managing scaled enterprise activity, constraints that plausibly apply to a meaningful share of Telangana's SHG base even given the state's comparative strength in credit linkage (PWOOnlyIAS, 2025).

12.5 Rural Infrastructure: PMGSY, Connectivity and Market Linkages

As documented extensively in Chapter 8, Telangana's rural road connectivity has benefited from sustained central investment under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, with the state positioned to receive a share of the ₹18,907 crore allocated nationally for 26,474 kilometers of rural road construction in the 2026-27 fiscal year, with particular central government emphasis on fast-tracking projects in the state's tribal and Left Wing Extremism-affected districts (Telangana Today, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 8). This rural connectivity investment directly supports the market linkage function central to rural development, enabling farmers and rural enterprises, including the SHG-based enterprises discussed in section 12.4, to access agricultural markets, procurement centers, and urban demand centers more reliably.

12.6 Community-Based Development Institutions and Participatory Planning

Telangana's rural development architecture increasingly relies on convergence between multiple community-based institutional channels: Panchayati Raj institutions for decentralised governance and planning, discussed in section 12.1, MGNREGA's Gram Sabha-based social audit mechanism, which mandates community oversight of scheme implementation as a matter of statutory design, discussed in section 12.2, and SHG federations for livelihood promotion and financial inclusion, discussed in section 12.4 (Understand UPSC, 2025; PWOOnlyIAS, 2025). The degree to which these parallel institutional channels are genuinely integrated into a coherent participatory planning framework at the village level, as opposed to operating as separate, vertically managed scheme delivery mechanisms, is difficult to assess without more granular, Telangana-specific governance data than was available in the sources reviewed for this report. This represents an important area for future research and data collection, given that the effectiveness of the state's substantial rural welfare investment, spanning housing, employment guarantee, and

livelihood promotion, depends significantly on the strength of exactly this kind of institutional convergence at the community level.

Chapter 13: Environment and Natural Resource Governance

13.1 Forest Cover, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

Telangana has recorded meaningful gains in headline forest cover in recent India State of Forest Report assessment cycles, with the state identified among the three states with the largest percentage-point increases in forest cover nationally, at 3.07 percent, alongside Odisha at 1.04 percent and Andhra Pradesh at 2.22 percent, in the 2021 assessment cycle (GeeksforGeeks, 2025). This gain is attributed substantially to the state's Telangana Ku Haritha Haram programme, a large-scale afforestation initiative launched to expand green cover across both rural and urban landscapes (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). As documented in Chapter 1, the state's forest cover remains concentrated in the northern and north-eastern districts bordering Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, including Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and Mulugu, which together host much of the state's tribal population and form part of the broader Central Indian forest landscape.

Notwithstanding this positive headline trend, Telangana's forest and biodiversity governance faced acute scrutiny in the current reporting period following a widely covered episode of deforestation in Hyderabad itself. On the night of March 30, 2025, bulldozers entered Kancha Gachibowli, a 400-acre tract of forested urban land close to the University of Hyderabad campus, and felled trees throughout the night as part of a state government plan to auction the land for an information technology park (Dialogue Earth, 2025). The site was documented as home to over 730 plant species, 220 bird species, and numerous mammals and reptiles, and video footage of the felling, which included the sounds of distressed wildlife, prompted immediate and sustained opposition from University of Hyderabad students (Dialogue Earth, 2025). The Supreme Court intervened on April 3, 2025, ordering a halt to what it characterised as alarming deforestation, and subsequently, on April 16, 2025, directed the Telangana government to formulate a plan to restore the felled tree cover and take immediate steps to protect the affected wildlife (Dialogue Earth, 2025).

This episode is illustrative of a broader structural vulnerability documented in national forest governance analysis: like many dense, biodiversity-rich natural forests in India, Kancha Gachibowli did not enjoy formal legal protection under India's forest classification system prior to the felling, meaning it was vulnerable to conversion despite its ecological significance (Dialogue Earth, 2025). The Supreme Court's broader 2024 directive that state governments comply with the dictionary definition of forests, rather than narrower administrative classifications that can exclude ecologically significant but formally unclassified land, is directly relevant to how future development decisions of this kind are adjudicated in Telangana and nationally (Dialogue Earth, 2025). This case represents a significant point of tension between the state's investment and industrial development priorities documented in Chapter 4, where information technology park expansion is treated as a core growth strategy, and its environmental governance and biodiversity conservation

obligations, and this framework identifies it as a priority issue for the state's environmental policy going forward.

13.2 Land Use Change, Soil Degradation and Land Resource Management

Land use change pressures in Telangana are driven by three principal forces documented across the sources reviewed for this chapter: coal mining activity, discussed further in section 13.4, which contributes to deforestation, land degradation, and loss of fertile soil in and around Singareni Collieries operational areas; unplanned urbanisation, particularly around Hyderabad, which reduces green cover and contributes to urban heat island effects through concrete-dominated construction and reduced tree canopy; and peri-urban land conversion for special economic zones, industrial parks, and city infrastructure, which national analysis identifies as an emerging and difficult-to-monitor category of forest and green space loss given the loose enforcement of dotted land records and buffer zone protections in expanding metropolitan peripheries (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024; Vajirao Institute, 2025). The state government's response mechanisms include reclamation of degraded mining areas through afforestation and continued rollout of the Ku Haritha Haram programme discussed in section 13.1, though the scale of land conversion documented in the Kancha Gachibowli case in section 13.1 illustrates the limits of these mitigation-focused approaches when set against the state's investment and infrastructure growth imperatives documented in Chapters 4 and 8.

13.3 Water Bodies, Wetlands and River Ecosystem Health

As documented in Chapter 10, Telangana's river ecosystem health faces meaningful pressure from inadequately treated liquid waste discharge, with the Musi river specifically identified as suffering pollution from untreated industrial and domestic waste, particularly along its course through the Hyderabad metropolitan region (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024, as discussed in Chapter 10). Contributing factors include industrial discharges of untreated effluents into rivers and lakes, agricultural runoff from chemical fertiliser and pesticide use, and unregulated domestic waste dumping, all of which contribute to declining aquatic biodiversity and contamination risk for drinking water sources (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). The state's policy response includes mandated installation of effluent treatment plants in industrial facilities and continued reliance on Mission Bhagiratha, discussed extensively in Chapter 10, to shift household drinking water dependence away from potentially contaminated surface and groundwater sources toward treated piped supply (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024).

On tank and wetland restoration specifically, the Mission Kakatiya programme, discussed in Chapter 10, functions as the state's principal instrument for rejuvenating the thousands of traditional tanks and ponds that form a historic backbone of Telangana's water storage and groundwater recharge system, including prominent urban water bodies such as Hussain Sagar and Osman Sagar in Hyderabad (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024, as discussed in Chapter 10). Groundwater depletion, driven by overextraction for irrigation, growing urban demand in Hyderabad, and reduced natural recharge capacity associated with deforestation, is identified as a compounding structural pressure on the state's overall water resource base, one that

intersects directly with both the agricultural water demands documented in Chapter 3 and the drinking water supply challenges documented in Chapter 10 (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024).

13.4 Mining and Mineral Resource Governance

Coal mining, concentrated in the operations of the state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Limited, represents Telangana's most significant mineral extraction activity and a recurring source of environmental pressure documented throughout this chapter. Mining activities are identified as contributing to deforestation and land degradation, destruction of landscapes, loss of fertile soil, and air and water pollution in mining-affected areas, with the state's mitigation strategy centered on promoting more sustainable mining practices and reclaiming degraded mining areas through afforestation programmes (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). As documented in Chapters 4 and 9, Singareni Collieries is simultaneously a significant driver of the state's continued thermal power generation capacity, with an additional 800 megawatts of coal-fired capacity under development at its Jaipur plant in Mancherial district, and an emerging participant in the state's renewable energy transition, developing a 500 megawatt wind farm across five districts using mining-adjacent land (Groklopedia, 2026b, as discussed in Chapter 9). This dual role, as both a legacy environmental liability through coal extraction and combustion and an emerging contributor to renewable capacity, positions Singareni Collieries as a distinctive case study in Telangana's broader energy transition challenge, examined further in Chapter 14's discussion of the state's green economy transition.

Nationally, forest land diversion for mining and industrial projects has followed a pattern of gradual acceleration since 2017, coinciding with liberalised environmental clearance standards, with mineral-rich central Indian states such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha recording the largest absolute forest land diversions in recent reporting cycles (Vajirao Institute, 2025). While Telangana was not identified among the largest absolute contributors to this national mining-driven deforestation trend in the sources reviewed, the state's own coal mining footprint and the concentration of tribal populations in and around Singareni Collieries' operational districts, documented in Chapter 7, mean that mining-related land use conflicts carry particular social justice significance within the state's specific context.

13.5 Pollution: Air, Water, Noise and Soil — Status and Regulatory Response

Telangana's pollution challenges span multiple media, as documented throughout this chapter: water pollution from industrial discharge, agricultural runoff, and domestic waste, discussed in section 13.3; air pollution associated with vehicular emissions and industrial zones concentrated in and around Hyderabad, compounding the urban heat island effects discussed in section 13.2; and soil degradation associated with mining activity, discussed in section 13.4. The Telangana State Pollution Control Board holds primary regulatory responsibility for monitoring and enforcing industrial emissions and effluent standards across the state, and the state's policy response toolkit includes strict enforcement of pollution control measures in industry, mandated effluent treatment plant installation, and expansion of

urban green space and reflective building materials to mitigate urban heat effects (Telangana PCS Exam Notes, 2024). Comprehensive, current, quantified air and water quality index data specific to Telangana's major cities and industrial clusters was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced directly from the Telangana State Pollution Control Board's real-time air and water quality monitoring dashboards in future editions.

13.6 Coastal and Marine Resource Management (Where Applicable)

Telangana is a landlocked state with no coastline or direct marine resource base, and this section is therefore not applicable to the state's environmental governance framework, in contrast to the standardised reporting template's broader applicability across India's coastal and non-coastal states alike. Telangana's water resource governance instead centers on inland river systems, tanks, and groundwater, documented in sections 13.2 and 13.3, and on the shared river basin management arrangements with neighboring states discussed in Chapter 20's treatment of inter-state cooperation.

Chapter 14: Climate Change and Ecological Security

14.1 State Climate Vulnerability and Risk Profile

Telangana's climate risk profile is shaped by its location within the Deccan Plateau's semi-arid zone, with an average annual rainfall of approximately 906 millimeters, of which 80 percent is received from the south-west monsoon, and a climate the state's own health-focused climate assessment characterises as predominantly hot and dry (National Centre for Disease Control, 2025). Recent trend analysis combining secondary datasets and quantitative modelling found a 2.8 degree Celsius rise in average temperature between 2000 and 2025, from approximately 28.5 degrees Celsius to 31.3 degrees Celsius, alongside high rainfall variability oscillating between 760 and 950 millimeters across the same period, a pattern researchers characterise as reflecting climatic instability rather than a clear directional trend, posing compounding challenges for agriculture and groundwater recharge (International Journal of Latest Technology, Engineering, Management and Applied Science, 2026).

Vulnerability assessment conducted by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water identifies clear geographic patterns of exposure within the state. Districts with high physical exposure to drought include Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda, attributable to their geographic location and rainfall distribution patterns, while Khammam, Mahabubnagar, and Adilabad districts are classified as Very High Vulnerability districts overall (National Centre for Disease Control, 2025). Adaptive capacity, meaning a region's ability to cope with climate stresses, is unevenly distributed: Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts show high adaptive capacity, while Mahabubnagar district shows the least, and the CEEW study specifically notes that districts with low adaptive capacity tend to overlap with districts carrying large tribal populations, directly linking the state's climate vulnerability profile to the socio-economic disadvantage patterns documented in Chapters 1 and 7 (National Centre for Disease Control, 2025).

Urban-specific climate stress is separately documented in Hyderabad, where rapid urbanisation has intensified the urban heat island effect, increasing surface temperatures and energy demand relative to the surrounding rural landscape, a dynamic that compounds the broader statewide temperature rise documented above and connects directly to the land use pressures examined in Chapter 13 (International Journal of Latest Technology, Engineering, Management and Applied Science, 2026).

14.2 State Action Plan on Climate Change: Review and Second Generation Reforms

Telangana's State Action Plan on Climate Change was developed to address the adaptation challenges the state experiences most acutely, namely droughts, heat waves, adverse effects on human health, and depleting water resources, with the explicit recognition that certain sectors, particularly industry and energy, require dedicated mitigation interventions delivered at the state level (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2017).

Complementing this general climate action framework, the state's Department of Health and Family Welfare has separately prepared a State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, in operation since 2019 under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health, with a planning horizon extending to 2027 and district-specific action plans to follow (National Centre for Disease Control, 2025). Notably, this health-focused plan identifies three non-attainment cities or towns in Telangana as designated by the Central Pollution Control Board, directly linking the state's air pollution governance, discussed in Chapter 13, to its climate and public health planning framework (National Centre for Disease Control, 2025).

On mitigation, the state has adopted a multi-sectoral strategy anchored in three principal instruments: the Cool Roof Policy, which aims to install 300 square kilometers of reflective roofing statewide, with a projected saving of 600 million units of electricity annually and associated carbon emission reductions; continued solar energy expansion, documented extensively in Chapter 9; and afforestation programming under Telangana Ku Haritha Haram, documented in Chapter 13, with a stated state target of increasing green cover to 50 percent by 2047 (International Journal of Latest Technology, Engineering, Management and Applied Science, 2026). Independent academic assessment of these mitigation measures found demonstrable, if uneven, impact, with reported energy consumption reductions of 15 to 20 percent in areas covered by cool roof and efficiency interventions, but concluded overall that the state's mitigation strategy is, in the assessment's own characterisation, policy-strong but execution-weak, with effectiveness varying substantially across sectors due to implementation gaps, limited monitoring capacity, and underlying socio-economic constraints (International Journal of Latest Technology, Engineering, Management and Applied Science, 2026). This finding of an implementation gap between climate policy design and delivery is a theme that recurs with particular force in this chapter's discussion of the state's Heatwave Action Plan in section 14.3.

14.3 Disaster Risk Profile: Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability Mapping

Heatwaves are formally classified by the Telangana government as a state-specific disaster, and the state has developed increasingly granular vulnerability mapping to guide its response. The Heatwave Action Plan 2025 introduced a comprehensive Heatwave Vulnerability Map prepared by the Telangana State Development Planning Society, classifying every mandal in the state into risk categories based on historical heatwave frequency and population exposure (The Hans India, 2025). This mapping identified 6 mandals covering 4.98 lakh people as Severe risk, defined as four or more years of severe heatwave exposure and six or more years of general heatwave conditions; 106 mandals covering 50.64 lakh people as Critical; 189 mandals covering 106.19 lakh people as Semi-Critical; and 287 mandals covering 178.53 lakh people as Vigilant, with heat-sensitive mandals concentrated predominantly in the north, east, and southeastern districts, including Nizamabad, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, and Bhadrachalam (The Hans India, 2025). By contrast, Hyderabad and its immediately surrounding urban mandals, along with southern and southwestern fringes near Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri, fall predominantly within the Vigilant and Safe

categories, indicating that the state's most acute heat vulnerability is concentrated in its rural and semi-rural districts rather than its dense urban core, a finding that runs counter to the urban heat island dynamics documented in section 14.1 and suggests that exposure duration and population density interact in complex ways in the state's overall heat risk profile (The Hans India, 2025).

14.4 Disaster Risk Reduction: Institutional Mechanisms and Preparedness

Telangana's disaster risk reduction institutional architecture is anchored by the Commissioner for Disaster Management and Ex-Officio Principal Secretary to Government, who functions as the state's Nodal Officer for heatwave and broader disaster response coordination, with District Collectors serving as Nodal Officers at the district level and the Commissioner of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation serving as the designated Nodal Officer for the GHMC area specifically (Government of Telangana, 2026c). The state's Heatwave Action Plan assigns specific, phased responsibilities across a wide range of departments, including Information and Public Relations for media monitoring, Medical and Health for epidemiological case review of heat-related mortality, Education and Animal Husbandry for awareness training targeted at children, teachers, and livestock caretakers, and transport authorities for ensuring shade and drinking water availability at bus stations, with implementation activated through a phased structure spanning pre-season preparation and active heat season response from March through July (Government of Telangana, 2026c).

Community-level preparedness mechanisms specified within the plan include training workshops and outreach sessions with ASHA workers, anganwadi staff, self-help groups, and municipal councils, activation of cooling centers in temples and public buildings during heat alerts, with prioritised access for outdoor workers and slum communities, and cost-free heatwave alert messaging arranged through telecom service providers (Government of Telangana, 2026c).

14.5 Post-Disaster Response, Relief and Reconstruction Framework

Notwithstanding this elaborate institutional and planning architecture, independent journalistic investigation into the substance of Telangana's Heatwave Action Plans across successive years reveals a significant and persistent implementation gap, one that bears directly on this chapter's post-disaster response and preparedness assessment. Analysis comparing the 2021, 2024, and 2026 editions of the state's Heatwave Action Plan found that the identical sentence documenting anganwadi centre vulnerability, specifically that 31,897 Main Anganwadi Centres and 4,076 Mini Anganwadi Centres in Telangana are vulnerable to heatwaves, appears verbatim across all three plan iterations, indicating that no mitigation measures were implemented at any of these centres across at least a five-year span despite repeated documentation of their vulnerability (Deccan Chronicle, 2026c). The investigation further identified an internal data inconsistency, with the state's Department of Women and Child Welfare reporting 35,781 total anganwadi centres on its website while the 2026 Heatwave Action Plan itself cites a total of 35,973, a discrepancy the reporting characterises as evidence of either bureaucratic inconsistency in plan preparation or a more troubling lack

of genuine engagement with the underlying vulnerability data (Deccan Chronicle, 2026c). The plan has, per its own documentation, been revised in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2025, yet the specific, repeatedly flagged vulnerability of the state's youngest and most exposed citizens, children attending anganwadi centres, appears to have gone unaddressed across this entire multi-year planning cycle (Deccan Chronicle, 2026c). This finding is a significant point of concern that this framework flags directly for state disaster management authorities, given the direct relevance of anganwadi-based child safety to the broader child welfare and nutrition themes examined in Chapters 6 and 7.

14.6 Green Economy Transition: Opportunities and Structural Challenges

Telangana's green economy transition is anchored in the renewable energy expansion documented extensively in Chapter 9, the state's 50 percent green cover target by 2047 discussed in section 14.2, and the Cool Roof Policy's energy efficiency contribution, but the state's own mitigation assessment literature cautions that execution capacity, rather than policy design, represents the binding constraint on realizing these ambitions (International Journal of Latest Technology, Engineering, Management and Applied Science, 2026). The Kancha Gachibowli deforestation episode documented in Chapter 13, occurring in service of information technology park development, illustrates a further structural tension within the state's green economy narrative: the same growth sectors, principally technology and Global Capability Centre expansion documented in Chapter 4, that anchor Telangana's economic growth strategy can come into direct conflict with the ecological conservation and green cover targets embedded in the state's own climate policy framework. Reconciling this tension, alongside closing the demonstrated implementation gap in heatwave preparedness documented in section 14.5, represents a central and largely unresolved challenge for Telangana's climate and ecological security policy as the state pursues its Vision 2047 growth targets discussed throughout this framework.

Chapter 15: Administrative Governance Reform

15.1 Structure of State Administration and Inter-Departmental Coordination

Telangana's state administration operates through a Secretariat-based departmental structure headed by the Chief Secretary, with the Commissioner for Disaster Management and Ex-Officio Principal Secretary structure documented in Chapter 14 illustrating the state's approach to cross-departmental coordination on specific policy priorities. As documented throughout this framework, the state's administrative machinery has expanded considerably since the 2016 redistricting that increased the number of districts from 10 to 33, a change intended to improve administrative responsiveness but which several chapters of this report, particularly Chapter 2's discussion of committed expenditure, have noted has also increased administrative overhead (PopulationU, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). Comprehensive, current, consolidated data on inter-departmental coordination mechanisms, secretariat reform initiatives, and administrative restructuring specific to the current government's term was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the General Administration Department's organisational reform documentation for a fuller treatment.

15.2 Anti-Corruption Framework: Lokayukta, Vigilance and Enforcement

Comprehensive, current data on the operational status, case disposal rates, and institutional strength of Telangana's Lokayukta and Anti-Corruption Bureau was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a significant data gap given the centrality of anti-corruption enforcement to administrative governance quality. This framework recommends that future editions draw directly on the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau's annual case disposal reports and the Lokayukta's annual reports to the state legislature for a rigorous assessment of this section, given that no current, verifiable statistics on case registration, conviction rates, or institutional capacity were located through the research conducted for this chapter.

15.3 Legal and Judicial Administration: Pendency, Access and Reform

Telangana's judicial administration has pursued active capacity expansion through the current recruitment cycle. The High Court for the State of Telangana notified 15 vacancies in the cadre of District Judges, Entry Level, under direct recruitment for 2026, alongside a further 27 vacancies under recruitment by transfer, and separately notified 94 posts of Civil Judge, Junior Division, for the 2025 recruitment year, with written examinations conducted in early 2026 (High Court for the State of Telangana, 2026). Beyond judicial officer recruitment specifically, the High Court's Telangana Judicial Ministerial and Subordinate Service conducted recruitment for 859 vacancies spanning Office Subordinate, Junior Assistant, Stenographer Grade III, Field Assistant, Typist, Copyist, Record Assistant, Process Server, and Examiner posts, with computer-based examinations held across three shifts in June 2026 (CareerPower, 2026a). This scale of concurrent judicial and judicial-support recruitment

suggests the state judiciary is actively working to address staffing gaps across multiple tiers of its administration.

On digital access to justice, the High Court announced an upgrade to its eCourts Service Mobile Application, with the upgraded application inaugurated on May 13, 2026, reflecting continued investment in digital case tracking and public access infrastructure (High Court for the State of Telangana, 2026). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on case pendency rates, average case disposal time, and court-to-population ratios specific to Telangana was not available in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw directly on the National Judicial Data Grid's Telangana-specific dashboards for a rigorous assessment of pendency trends.

15.4 Police Modernisation and Internal Security Management

Telangana has undertaken substantial police recruitment activity in the current cycle, reflecting an effort to address longstanding staffing gaps within the state police force. Multiple recruitment notifications from the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board indicate planned constable and sub-inspector recruitment ranging from 6,180 to as high as 14,645 vacancies across successive notification cycles in 2026, alongside a separate notification for 244 vacancies specifically for Sub Inspector and Reserve Sub Inspector posts (Testbook, 2026; CareerPower, 2026b; CareerPower, 2026c). The scale and frequency of these recruitment drives, drawing reportedly over 5 lakh applicants statewide for constable posts alone, indicates both significant public demand for police service employment and an acknowledgment by the state government of substantial existing vacancy levels within the force (Telangana Government Jobs Portal, 2026). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on the police-to-population ratio, crime rate trends, and specific internal security challenges within Telangana, including the residual Left Wing Extremism threat referenced in Chapter 8's discussion of the state's inclusion in the Road Connectivity Project for LWE-affected areas, was not available at sufficient detail in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Director General of Police's annual crime and security reports in future editions.

15.5 Regulatory Governance: Quality, Consistency and Independence

As documented in Chapter 9, Telangana's electricity sector regulatory framework, governed by the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission, represents one of the state's more developed sector-specific regulatory institutions, with TSERC's 2025 Rooftop Solar Regulations illustrating a comparatively sophisticated and current approach to technical regulation (Mercom India, 2025, as discussed in Chapter 9). Comprehensive, current, cross-sectoral assessment of regulatory quality, consistency, and institutional independence across Telangana's other sector regulators, including environmental, land use, and financial services-adjacent regulatory bodies, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on relevant national regulatory quality indices, where state-disaggregated data exists, for a fuller treatment.

15.6 Reduction of Red-Tapism: Simplification and Way Forward

As documented in Chapter 4, Telangana's TS-iPASS single-window industrial clearance system is positioned by the state's investment promotion agency as rated among the best in the country for streamlining industrial approvals, representing the state's most developed and internationally recognised administrative simplification initiative (Invest Telangana, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 4). This sector-specific success in reducing regulatory friction for industrial investment stands in some contrast to the broader, more fragmented picture emerging from this chapter's other sections, including the substantial ongoing recruitment backlogs documented in sections 15.3 and 15.4 and the general absence of consolidated, current data on administrative simplification efforts outside the investment promotion context. This asymmetry, strong simplification specifically where it serves investment competitiveness, less visible progress elsewhere, is consistent with the broader pattern this framework has documented across multiple chapters, in which Telangana's growth-oriented administrative machinery is considerably more developed than its citizen-facing service delivery and internal administrative reform machinery.

15.7 Civil Service Strength: Vacancy Rates and Training Institutions

Telangana's civil service recruitment pipeline shows substantial activity across multiple cadres in the current period. The Telangana State Public Service Commission, now operating under the TGPSC designation, recently completed a recruitment cycle filling 563 Group 1 posts, spanning positions including Deputy Collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and Commercial Tax Officer, with applications for a further Group 1 cycle closing in January 2026 (NaukriDuniya, 2026; ScholarsSSCAcademy, 2026). Separately, the state's teacher recruitment pipeline, conducted through the Telangana State Level Selection Committee framework referenced in Chapter 5, was expected to notify approximately 12,000 teacher vacancies following completion of the state's Teacher Eligibility Test results in early 2026, a scale of recruitment directly relevant to the teacher vacancy concerns flagged in Chapter 5's education assessment (ScholarsSSCAcademy, 2026). The National Health Mission Telangana was separately identified as one of the state's largest public sector employers, releasing annual vacancy notifications for Community Health Officers, Staff Nurses, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, Laboratory Technicians, and Pharmacists across all 33 districts, complementing the health workforce expansion documented in Chapter 6 (Telangana Government Jobs Portal, 2026).

Taken together, the scale of concurrent recruitment activity documented across the police, judicial, teaching, health, and general administrative cadres in this chapter suggests that Telangana entered the current period with meaningful accumulated vacancy backlogs across multiple core civil service functions. This finding directly corroborates concerns raised in earlier chapters of this framework, including doctors' associations flagging staffing gaps despite health budget increases in Chapter 6, and this report's recommendation in Chapter 5 that state authorities directly address teacher vacancy and recruitment cycle irregularities. Comprehensive, current, consolidated data quantifying the total civil service vacancy rate

across all state government departments, as opposed to department-by-department recruitment notifications, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state Finance Department's consolidated establishment and vacancy position statements for a rigorous, aggregate assessment of this section.

Chapter 16: Technology-Enabled Service Delivery

16.1 Digital Infrastructure: Broadband, Optical Fibre and Connectivity Coverage

Telangana's broadband infrastructure backbone is anchored by the T-Fiber project, developed as part of the state's second Information, Communications and Technology Policy, spanning the 2021 to 2026 period, alongside the state's Telangana State Wide Area Network and Telangana State Data Center, which together form the core connectivity and hosting infrastructure underpinning the state's digital service delivery platforms (NAREDCO Telangana, 2023; Anveshana India, 2025). As documented in Chapter 4, this connectivity backbone has directly supported the state's Global Capability Centre and data centre investment growth, and the state government is separately exploring, per statements by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in discussions with Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal in June 2026, the establishment of a comprehensive data centre and artificial intelligence infrastructure campus, alongside a proposed Chandanvelli data centre project, with Hyderabad under consideration as a potential second headquarters location for Bharti Airtel (SocialNews.XYZ, 2026). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on statewide broadband penetration rates, fibre-to-the-home coverage, and rural connectivity gaps under T-Fiber specifically was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state IT, Electronics and Communications Department's connectivity coverage statistics for a fuller treatment.

16.2 e-Governance Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure

Telangana's e-governance architecture has been built around the MeeSeva portal since the early 2010s, conceived to provide universal, non-discriminatory delivery of government services through information and communication technology, with academic assessment finding that the platform enables 37 percent of applicants to obtain certificates within a single visit, a substantial improvement in service efficiency relative to the state's pre-digital service delivery model (Academia.edu, 2025). MeeSeva operates in conjunction with the T-App Folio mobile application, which extends access to services including scholarship applications, land records, and bill payment directly to citizens' mobile devices, and the e-Panchayat system, which extends digital service delivery specifically into rural local governance structures (Anveshana India, 2025).

The most significant recent development in Telangana's digital public infrastructure is the state's move to launch what it describes as India's first state-led Digital Public Infrastructure for artificial intelligence, announced for launch on July 2, 2025 (AI CERTs, 2025). Modelled conceptually on foundational digital public infrastructure precedents such as Aadhaar for identity verification and the Unified Payments Interface for payments, Telangana's AI-focused DPI is designed as a shared, open-access digital foundation intended to allow startups, researchers, and developers, not solely large technology firms, to build and deploy artificial intelligence tools for public benefit (AI CERTs, 2025). The initial rollout targets four priority sectors: healthcare, through predictive analytics for early disease detection, patient

triage, and telemedicine enhancement; agriculture, through crop disease alerts, weather prediction, and soil analytics; education, through personalised learning tools and AI tutors for remote areas; and governance itself, through citizen service chatbots, automated policy analytics, and grievance redressal systems (AI CERTs, 2025). The state has stated that the platform's design complies with India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act and draws on ethical artificial intelligence frameworks developed by NITI Aayog and the OECD, and that rollout will proceed in a phased, modular fashion allowing pilot testing and community feedback ahead of statewide scaling (AI CERTs, 2025).

16.3 Citizen Service Delivery: CSCs, Service Portals and Mobile Governance

Beyond MeeSeva and T-App Folio, discussed in section 16.2, Telangana's citizen service delivery architecture extends into sector-specific digital tools, including police services applications that allow citizens to track police station locations and provide direct feedback on police service quality, reflecting an effort to extend the state's broader digital governance model into law enforcement accountability (Anveshana India, 2025). Academic assessment of the state's digital governance journey attributes its comparative success to a combination of sustained political leadership, coherent policy frameworks spanning successive ICT policy cycles, and strategic partnerships between government and private sector technology providers (Academia.edu, 2025). Notwithstanding this assessed success, the same academic literature identifies persistent implementation challenges, most notably digital literacy gaps among segments of the population, last-mile connectivity constraints in rural and remote areas, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities, all of which the literature identifies as requiring sustained attention for the state's digital governance gains to be fully inclusive (Academia.edu, 2025; Anveshana India, 2025).

16.4 Data Governance, Open Data Policy and Privacy Framework

Telangana's approach to data governance is most visibly articulated through the design principles underpinning its AI-focused Digital Public Infrastructure discussed in section 16.2, which the state has explicitly framed as compliant with the national Digital Personal Data Protection Act and aligned with internationally recognised ethical AI governance frameworks (AI CERTs, 2025). The state's broader Emerging Technologies Wing, established as a dedicated institutional mechanism within the state government, has additionally published a specific AI Framework encompassing governance, ethics, and privacy as one of its core policy pillars, alongside data exchange platform development and a dedicated AI-Innovestment Fund intended to catalyse artificial intelligence-focused private investment (Invest Telangana, 2026a). Comprehensive, current, granular data on the practical implementation and enforcement of these data governance commitments, as distinct from their stated policy design, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should assess implementation outcomes once the AI-focused DPI moves beyond its initial pilot phase.

16.5 Cybersecurity: State-Level Institutional Mechanisms

Telangana's Emerging Technologies Wing has published a dedicated Cyber Security Policy structured around four institutional pillars: a legal and regulatory framework, a compliance and enforcement framework, a capacity building and cybersecure acculturation framework, and a business development framework intended to grow the state's cybersecurity industry alongside its defensive posture (Invest Telangana, 2026a). This policy structure positions cybersecurity as both a protective governance function and an economic development opportunity, consistent with the state's broader strategy, documented in Chapter 4, of building anchor industries around its technology and Global Capability Centre ecosystem, within which cybersecurity operations form a meaningful functional category. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on cybersecurity incident rates, critical infrastructure protection assessments, and state government systems' vulnerability posture was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions given the sensitivity of this information and the corresponding difficulty of independently verifying state cybersecurity posture from public sources.

16.6 Emerging Technologies: AI, Geospatial Systems and Smart Governance

Telangana's Emerging Technologies Wing, established as a first-of-its-kind institutional structure among Indian states, has identified eight technologies as critical to the state's future industry and governance landscape: artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, drones and robotics, augmented and virtual reality, space technology, and additive manufacturing (Invest Telangana, 2026a). Beyond the AI Framework discussed in sections 16.2 and 16.4, the state has published a Blockchain Framework, in operation since 2019 with strategic partnerships including BitFury, the Indian School of Business, and the Global Blockchain Business Council, a Drone Framework focused on infrastructure and talent pool development for drone technology startups, and an Internet of Things Policy anchored around the state's T-Works innovation infrastructure (Invest Telangana, 2026a).

On geospatial and drone-enabled governance specifically, Telangana has pursued practical applications since as early as 2019, when the state partnered with the World Economic Forum on the Medicine From the Sky initiative, using drone-based delivery for blood, vaccines, medical samples, and organs to improve last-mile healthcare supply chain reliability, and when the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation proposed geographic information system-based drone mapping surveys to identify unauthorised construction, map urban utilities, and monitor roads, drains, and streetlights, with a secondary function of identifying property tax under-assessment (India AI, 2026). The state declared 2020 its designated Year of AI and has since signed strategic artificial intelligence partnerships with NVIDIA, Intel, Adobe, Wadhvani.ai, the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad, and Hexagon, alongside establishing four technology-dedicated Centres of Excellence and pursuing the development of a dedicated Space Park (Invest Telangana, 2026a). This breadth of emerging technology policy activity, spanning AI, blockchain, drones, and space technology, positions Telangana among the more

institutionally proactive Indian states in this domain, though as with several other sections of this chapter, verified outcome data quantifying the practical impact of these frameworks on governance efficiency or citizen welfare remains comparatively scarce in the sources reviewed for this report.

Chapter 17: Innovation, Research and Knowledge Economy

17.1 State Innovation Ecosystem: Startups and Accelerators

Telangana's startup ecosystem is anchored by T-Hub, which describes itself as the world's largest startup incubation centre following the June 2024 inauguration of T-Hub 2.0, a ten-storey, 5,72,000 to 5,82,689 square foot facility, larger than France's Station F, the previous holder of that distinction (Startup Genome, 2026; Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, 2026). T-Hub has grown its regional startup base from 400 in 2016 to roughly 2,000 by 2022, and current figures place its cumulative support at over 2,000 startups, more than US\$2 billion in associated funding secured, and over 25,000 jobs created through T-Hub-associated ventures (Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, 2026; Startup Genome, 2026). The facility operates on a 6Ms and 2Ps support model, providing Mentors, Market access, Motivation, Manpower, Money, and Methodologies, alongside Partnership and Policy advisory support, and hosts the AIC T-Hub Foundation, a partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission focused on startups in healthcare, mobility, and sustainability (Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, 2026).

Complementing T-Hub, the state's broader ecosystem includes WE Hub, Telangana's first state-led incubator dedicated to women entrepreneurs, which in 2025 launched the Grassroots Youth Innovation Program specifically targeting young people, and particularly girls, from rural and semi-urban areas, alongside its longstanding WE Alpha programme for students aged 17 to 21 designed to convert early-stage ideas into functioning proof-of-concept ventures over an eight-week structured journey (WE Hub, 2026; IOSR Journal of Marketing Research, 2025). T-Works provides prototyping infrastructure spanning metalworking, woodworking, ceramics, 3D printing, laser cutting, and electronics testing, while the Telangana State Innovation Cell, established in 2017, focuses specifically on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among students across the state (IOSR Journal of Marketing Research, 2025). In September 2024, the Telangana Innovation Cell launched the T-Spark grant programme to provide funding specifically to early-stage and seed-stage startups, complementing the state's broader Startup Telangana 2025 platform aimed at building entrepreneurial development skills (Startup Genome, 2026).

17.2 Research and Development: Academic-Industry Linkages

Telangana's research and development ecosystem is closely integrated with its Global Capability Centre base documented in Chapter 4, given that a significant share of GCC activity in the state, 22 percent by function according to the data presented in that chapter, is classified specifically as innovation and research and development hubs rather than delivery or shared service centres (D&B, 2025, as discussed in Chapter 4). The state's Emerging Technologies Wing, documented in Chapter 16, has established four technology-dedicated Centres of Excellence and pursued strategic research partnerships with technology firms including NVIDIA, Intel, and Adobe alongside academic institutions including the Indian

Institute of Technology Hyderabad and the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad, reflecting a deliberate state strategy of embedding academic research capacity within its broader emerging technology policy architecture (Invest Telangana, 2026a, as discussed in Chapter 16).

In February 2025, the Telangana government partnered with Google to launch an AI Accelerator in Hyderabad, explicitly designed to support startups and advance artificial intelligence solutions across agriculture, mobility, education, sustainability, and governance, with the state's stated ambition of establishing Hyderabad as a global artificial intelligence hub (Startup Genome, 2026). This built on momentum from the state's 2024 Global AI Summit, which the state credits with helping chart its roadmap toward this AI hub ambition, and the state has since committed to a Fund of Funds of approximately US\$2.4 billion, or ₹20,000 crore, intended to catalyse AI-driven healthcare and life sciences startups, alongside a proposed Health Data Exchange and subsidised computing infrastructure for research purposes (Startup Genome, 2026).

17.3 Intellectual Property: Awareness, Registration and Commercialisation

Comprehensive, current, quantified data on patent filing rates, intellectual property registration volumes, and commercialisation outcomes specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions. What can be inferred from the broader investment and research context documented in this chapter is that the state's pharmaceutical and life sciences sector, described in industry assessments as India's vaccine capital and contributing approximately 33 percent of global vaccine supply, represents a sector with substantial embedded intellectual property activity, given the patent-intensive nature of vaccine and pharmaceutical development (IOSR Journal of Marketing Research, 2025). Future editions of this framework should draw on the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks' state-disaggregated filing data, where available, to provide a rigorous quantitative assessment of this section.

17.4 Knowledge Institutions as Engines of Development

As documented in Chapter 5, Telangana's higher education system, with a Gross Enrolment Ratio of 40.2 percent against a national average of 32.5 percent, and a particularly high concentration of colleges in Rangareddy and Hyderabad districts, provides the state's innovation ecosystem with a comparatively strong base of technical talent (Indiadatamap, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 5). This talent base is directly leveraged by the research partnerships documented in section 17.2, and by the state's broader positioning of Hyderabad's knowledge institution cluster, including the University of Hyderabad, the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad, and the Indian School of Business, as anchor institutions for both the state's Vision 2047 planning process, documented in Chapter 1, and its emerging technology and life sciences research agenda documented throughout this chapter.

17.5 Building a Youth Innovation and Research Ecosystem

Telangana's youth-focused innovation programming spans multiple institutional channels documented across this chapter, including WE Hub's Grassroots Youth Innovation Program and Campuspreneur initiative for undergraduate and postgraduate students aged 17 to 23, and the Telangana State Innovation Cell's student-focused entrepreneurship promotion mandate (WE Hub, 2026; Startup Telangana, 2026). The state's Grassroots Innovation Framework, spanning the 2020 to 2025 period, was specifically designed to strengthen grassroots-level innovation capacity, complementing the more urban, technology-sector-oriented innovation infrastructure represented by T-Hub and the Emerging Technologies Wing (IOSR Journal of Marketing Research, 2025). Whether this grassroots framework has succeeded in extending innovation ecosystem benefits meaningfully beyond the Hyderabad metropolitan core, given the broader pattern of geographic economic concentration documented throughout this report, particularly in Chapters 1, 3, and 4, is a question this report cannot resolve without more granular, district-disaggregated participation and outcome data than was available in the sources reviewed.

17.6 Skill Development, Employability and Workforce Alignment

Telangana's most significant recent skill development institutional innovation is the Young India Skills University, established in Hyderabad in October 2024 under a public-private partnership model specifically to bridge workforce skill gaps and enhance employment outcomes, offering specialised courses in logistics, e-commerce, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals, sectors directly aligned with the state's anchor industry base documented in Chapters 3 and 4 (Startup Genome, 2026). As documented in Chapter 16, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has separately highlighted the state's broader skilling infrastructure upgrade in discussions with private investors, including the conversion of Industrial Training Institutes into Advanced Technology Centres and continued development of polytechnic colleges (SocialNews.XYZ, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 16). In January 2025, the state signed a memorandum of understanding with Singapore's Institute of Technical Education specifically to align Telangana's youth skilling programmes with globally benchmarked, industry-ready standards (Startup Genome, 2026).

The Technology Growth and Skill Knowledge foundation, TASK, functions as a further dedicated employability skill-building institution within the state's ecosystem, focusing specifically on improving graduate employability outcomes, complementing T-Hub, WE Hub, and T-Works' more innovation and entrepreneurship-oriented mandates (Metro India, 2026a). Taken together, this suggests Telangana has built a reasonably comprehensive, multi-institutional skilling architecture spanning formal higher education, dedicated skill universities, employability-focused foundations, and international curriculum partnerships. Comprehensive, current, quantified placement outcome and employability improvement data specific to these programmes was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state Skill Development Mission's outcome tracking data, where available, to assess whether this substantial institutional investment is translating into

measurable employment gains for the state's youth population, a question directly relevant to the demographic dividend realisation challenge documented in Chapter 1.

Chapter 18: Agriculture, Allied Sectors and Food Security

18.1 Cropping Pattern, Agricultural Productivity and Input Use

As documented in Chapter 3, Telangana's primary sector output has shifted markedly toward livestock in recent years, with livestock accounting for 41.4 percent of primary sector output as of 2025-26, ahead of crop production at 38.2 percent, a reversal of the historical pattern in which crops constituted the larger share (Hyderabad Mail, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 3). Within crop agriculture specifically, the state recorded record foodgrain production of 236.87 lakh metric tonnes in the most recent reporting period, with paddy and cotton remaining the dominant crops on the state's black cotton and red soil plateau terrain documented in Chapter 1 (Deccan Chronicle, 2026a, as discussed in Chapter 3).

Productivity constraints remain significant relative to international benchmarks. Policy analysis places Indian paddy yields at an average of 4,229 kilograms per hectare, significantly below China's 7,076 kilograms per hectare, a gap that state investment support programmes, discussed in section 18.3, are explicitly designed to help close through improved seed and fertiliser management (RythuBharosa.com, 2026). A further structural constraint on productivity and mechanisation is landholding fragmentation: approximately 68 percent of landholdings in Telangana are classified as marginal, meaning less than one hectare, a fragmentation pattern that limits the economies of scale needed for mechanised, input-efficient cultivation (RythuBharosa.com, 2026).

18.2 Irrigation and Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture

Telangana's irrigation infrastructure is documented extensively in Chapter 10, anchored by the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project's expanded command area target of 18.3 lakh acres, and separately cited at up to 45 lakh acres depending on the measure used, alongside continued expansion through the Palamuru-Rangareddy and Devadula lift irrigation schemes and tank rejuvenation under Mission Kakatiya (KPI AS Academy, 2025, as discussed in Chapter 10). Notwithstanding this substantial infrastructure investment, roughly 37 percent of the state's cultivable land remains rain-fed as of the current reporting period, leaving a meaningful share of Telangana's farming households structurally vulnerable to monsoon variability of the kind documented in Chapter 14's climate vulnerability assessment (RythuBharosa.com, 2026). As noted in Chapter 3, the state's irrigated area stood at 73 lakh acres as of 2023, against a government target of expanding coverage by a further 50 lakh acres over the following two to three years, a target whose full achievement would materially reduce this rain-fed exposure (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 3).

18.3 Agricultural Marketing, Price Realisation and Farmer Income

Telangana's principal instrument for supporting farmer income and input affordability is Rythu Bharosa, launched by the Congress-led state government on January 26, 2025, as the restructured successor to the earlier Rythu Bandhu scheme first introduced in 2018

(KnowledgeKendra, 2026). The scheme provides ₹12,000 per acre annually, disbursed as two equal instalments of ₹6,000 for the Kharif and Rabi seasons respectively, up from the ₹10,000 per acre provided under Rythu Bandhu, with the 2025-26 budget allocating ₹18,000 crore to reach an estimated 70 to 73 lakh farmers across all 33 districts (eGovtSchemes, 2026; Kshema, 2026). By the 2026 Ugadi celebrations, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated the government had already disbursed ₹18,000 crore cumulatively under the scheme (RythuBharosa.com, 2026).

The redesign from Rythu Bandhu to Rythu Bharosa introduced several structurally significant eligibility changes. Payouts are now strictly confined to actively cultivated, arable land, verified through joint field surveys by Agriculture Extension Officers and Revenue Inspectors and cross-checked against the state's Bhu Bharati digital land records system, which replaced the earlier Dharani portal in 2025, explicitly excluding real estate layouts, mining lands, industrial plots, and land occupied by warehouses or function halls, categories that had drawn criticism under the earlier scheme for benefiting non-cultivating landowners (Mulugu District Portal, 2026; KnowledgeKendra, 2026). For the first time, registered tenant farmers holding valid lease agreements are eligible for the full benefit, addressing a longstanding criticism that an estimated 30 percent of Telangana's cultivated land, farmed by tenants rather than titleholders, had been excluded from direct income support under the previous scheme's design (KnowledgeKendra, 2026). Landless agricultural labourers, meanwhile, are covered through a linked sub-programme, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, providing ₹12,000 annually to households identified through MGNREGS job card records showing at least 20 days of work in the 2023-24 financial year (Mulugu District Portal, 2026).

Policy analysts frame this shift toward direct income support, as opposed to Minimum Support Price-based market intervention, as carrying distinct tradeoffs: direct cash transfers allow farmers greater autonomy in cropping decisions based on market demand and reduce the overproduction and price distortion risks associated with MSP-driven cultivation choices, but do not address underlying market infrastructure or price realisation constraints that farmers continue to face at the point of sale (IGRS Telangana, 2026a). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on agricultural market yard infrastructure, price realisation gaps between farm-gate and wholesale prices, and e-NAM integration specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state's Agricultural Marketing Department data for a fuller treatment of this specific dimension.

18.4 Food Processing Industry and Value Chain Development

Comprehensive, current, quantified data on food processing sector investment, value addition, and cold chain infrastructure specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a data gap this framework flags for future editions. As documented in Chapter 4, the state's T-IDEA industrial policy framework specifically provides enhanced mega-project incentives for food processing investments exceeding ₹100

crore or generating more than 1,000 direct jobs, alongside provisions incentivising raw material procurement from Farmer Producer Organisations and Self-Help Groups, indicating an active policy intent to build stronger backward linkages between the state's agricultural base and its industrial food processing capacity (TGFPS, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 4). Future editions of this framework should draw on the state's Food Processing Policy documentation and Ministry of Food Processing Industries state-level investment data to provide a rigorous quantitative assessment of this section.

18.5 Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Poultry: Economic Contribution

As documented in Chapter 3, livestock has emerged as the largest single component of Telangana's primary sector output, at 41.4 percent as of 2025-26, ahead of crop production, with livestock and fisheries together contributing ₹1.11 lakh crore to the state economy in the most recent reporting period, and Telangana ranking as the eighth-largest state in India by livestock population (Hyderabad Mail, 2026; Deccan Chronicle, 2026a, as discussed in Chapter 3). This sector's demonstrated stability during drought years, relative to the volatility of rain-fed crop agriculture documented in section 18.1, positions livestock, dairy, and poultry as an increasingly important buffer for Telangana's farm households against the climate variability risks documented in Chapter 14. Comprehensive, current, disaggregated data on dairy cooperative coverage, milk procurement volumes, and poultry sector employment specific to Telangana was not available at sufficient granularity in the sources reviewed for this report and should be sourced from the state Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department in future editions.

18.6 Fisheries: Inland, Marine and Aquaculture

As a landlocked state, discussed in Chapter 13, Telangana's fisheries sector is confined entirely to inland fisheries and aquaculture, drawing on the state's extensive network of tanks, reservoirs, and river systems documented in Chapter 10, including those rejuvenated under Mission Kakatiya. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on inland fish production volumes, aquaculture area under cultivation, and fisher household livelihoods specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and this represents a data gap this framework flags for future editions, which should draw on the state Fisheries Department's production statistics for a fuller treatment of this section.

18.7 Horticulture, Floriculture and Medicinal Plants

Comprehensive, current, quantified data on horticulture, floriculture, and medicinal plant cultivation area, production volumes, and value addition specific to Telangana was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, representing a further data gap this framework flags for future editions. Given the state's pharmaceutical and life sciences sector strength documented in Chapters 3 and 4, medicinal plant cultivation in particular represents a plausible area of underexplored backward linkage between the state's agricultural base and its dominant pharmaceutical manufacturing cluster, and future editions should draw on the

state Horticulture Department's crop-wise area and production data to assess this connection rigorously.

18.8 Agricultural Credit, Insurance and Risk Management

Telangana's agricultural risk management architecture combines the Rythu Bharosa income support scheme discussed in section 18.3 with Rythu Bima, a group life insurance scheme providing ₹5 lakh to the nominee of a registered farmer aged 18 to 59 within 10 days of death, with the state government paying the entire premium to the Life Insurance Corporation of India on farmers' behalf (RythuBharosa.com, 2026; Mulugu District Portal, 2026). A significant and consequential policy shift occurred with the discontinuation of the state's free crop insurance provision beginning with the 2024-25 Kharif season: farmers are now required to pay their own premiums under the national Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a change that shifts a meaningful financial burden back onto farming households at precisely the point in the agricultural calendar when input costs, only partially offset by Rythu Bharosa's seasonal disbursement, are already highest (IGRS Telangana, 2026b). This change means that the combined value of state agricultural support for a representative smallholder, when Rythu Bharosa, Rythu Bima, free agricultural electricity documented in Chapter 9, and the central government's PM-KISAN transfer are aggregated, is estimated at ₹60,000 to ₹80,000 annually for a farmer with three acres, though this figure now implicitly nets out a new, self-funded insurance premium obligation that did not exist prior to the 2024-25 policy change (KnowledgeKendra, 2026).

On institutional credit specifically, comprehensive, current, quantified data on formal agricultural credit disbursement, crop loan coverage, and the scale of informal or moneylender-based borrowing among Telangana's farming households was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report. What is documented is that the state's shift toward predictable, seasonally timed direct benefit transfers under Rythu Bharosa is explicitly framed by state officials as a mechanism to reduce farmer dependency on informal credit sources and break longstanding cycles of rural indebtedness, though independent, quantified evidence of this outcome was not available in the sources reviewed and should be sourced from Reserve Bank of India and NABARD agricultural credit data disaggregated at the state level in future editions (RythuBharosa.com, 2026).

Chapter 19: Tourism, Culture and Creative Economy

19.1 Tourism Asset Inventory: Natural, Heritage, Religious and Adventure

Telangana's tourism asset base draws on a layered cultural history, reflected in the region's historic identification as Trilingadesha, a name tied to three prominent Shiva lingas, Srisailem, Draksharamam, and Keshwaram, and traced through subsequent linguistic evolution to Telingadesha and eventually Telangana (International Journal of Novel Research and Development, 2025). This religious heritage layer sits alongside the architectural and cultural legacy of the Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi dynasties, whose patronage shaped Hyderabad's distinctive arts, crafts, literature, and architecture and established the old princely state of Hyderabad as one of the wealthiest regions in India during that period (International Journal of Novel Research and Development, 2025). Together, these layers give the state a tourism asset base spanning religious pilgrimage sites, Deccani Islamic heritage architecture, natural landscapes including the forested northern districts documented in Chapter 1, and the film-based cultural tourism draw discussed in section 19.6.

19.2 Tourism Infrastructure: Hotels, Connectivity and Facilitation

Telangana's first-ever comprehensive, dedicated tourism policy since the state's formation in 2014, the Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030, was tabled on March 17, 2025, explicitly designed to accelerate tourism infrastructure development through strategic concessions and incentives structured across public-private partnership, joint venture, and equity investment models (Tourism Breaking News, 2026; International Journal of Novel Research and Development, 2025). The policy caps total incentives at project cost, with additional special incentives available on a case-by-case basis for achievements such as quality certifications or job creation, and commits to establishing a comprehensive Telangana Tourism portal functioning as a one-stop platform covering destination information, accommodation booking, activities, transportation, and local experiences (International Journal of Novel Research and Development, 2025). As documented in Chapters 3 and 4, this policy framework encompasses 30 major projects with total targeted investment of ₹15,000 crore, delivered in partnership with the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation, local authorities, and private stakeholders (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapters 3 and 4). The academic literature reviewing the policy's implementation cautions that ensuring seamless execution on the ground, given the multiplicity of institutional stakeholders involved, could represent a significant implementation challenge, a concern consistent with the broader pattern of policy-strong but execution-uneven outcomes this framework has documented in other domains, including Chapter 14's climate mitigation assessment (International Journal of Novel Research and Development, 2025).

19.3 Domestic and International Tourist Flows: Trends and Targets

The Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 sets an explicit ambition of positioning the state among India's top five states for both domestic and international tourist arrivals, with

projected job creation estimates varying somewhat across official communications, cited at approximately 50,000 jobs in some state government statements and at 3 lakh jobs over the five-year policy period in others, a discrepancy that future editions of this framework should reconcile against the policy's final, consolidated implementation targets (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026, as discussed in Chapters 3 and 4; Tourism Breaking News, 2026). On international tourism specifically, the policy places explicit emphasis on building presence at international tourism forums and travel marts and on reaching out to the global Telugu diaspora as a distinct and readily addressable international visitor segment (Scribd, 2025). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on actual domestic and international tourist arrival numbers for Telangana, as opposed to policy targets, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state Tourism Department's annual visitor statistics for a rigorous, outcomes-based assessment of this section.

19.4 Cultural Heritage Preservation and Institutional Framework

The Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 includes a specific cultural education initiative, the Telangana Darshini Program, intended to promote educational tours to selected cultural and heritage destinations across the state, with an ambition that every school student visit such sites as part of their academic journey, directly linking the state's tourism policy to its broader education priorities documented in Chapter 5 (Scribd, 2025). As documented in Chapter 11, this heritage preservation agenda intersects directly with sensitive urban infrastructure planning, most notably the Hyderabad Metro's Old City corridor construction through the historically dense Darulshifa to Chandrayangutta stretch, where heritage sensitivity has required careful utility mapping and construction sequencing (AssetScan, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 11).

19.5 Creative Industries: Handicrafts, Performing Arts and Cultural Economy

The Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030 explicitly commits to extensively promoting Telangana's handlooms, handicrafts, arts, and cuisine through dedicated food festivals and melas, positioning the state's traditional creative economy as an integrated component of its broader tourism strategy rather than a standalone cultural preservation exercise (Scribd, 2025). Comprehensive, current, quantified data on handicraft sector employment, handloom weaver household incomes, and the economic scale of Telangana's traditional creative industries was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and this represents a data gap this framework flags for future editions, which should draw on the state Handlooms and Textiles Department's sector-specific data for a fuller assessment.

19.6 Film, Media and Content Industries as Economic Drivers

Telangana's film and media sector, anchored by Hyderabad's globally recognised film production infrastructure, is explicitly integrated into the state's tourism strategy through a dedicated policy provision for conducting special tours to film studios where internationally recognised movies have been produced, designed to generate curiosity and experiential engagement among international tourists (Scribd, 2025). This approach leverages

Hyderabad's standing as a major hub of the Telugu film industry and its associated large-scale studio infrastructure, positioning film tourism as a distinct and differentiated component of the state's broader tourism asset base documented in section 19.1. Comprehensive, current, quantified data on film industry output, revenue, employment, and its direct economic contribution to the state's creative economy, as distinct from its role as a tourism draw, was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future editions should draw on the state's Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation data and industry association reporting for a rigorous quantitative treatment of this sub-sector.

Chapter 20: Cross-Cutting Themes and Integrated Policy Imperatives

20.1 Sustainable Development Goals of the State

Telangana's performance on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as tracked through NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, provides one of the most rigorous available cross-sectoral benchmarks for the state's development trajectory, and offers a partial answer to the Human Development Index data gap flagged in Chapter 1. Telangana entered the Index's tracking history as a Performer in the 2018 baseline report, sharing third place nationally with Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at a composite score of 67, behind Kerala's 70 and Himachal Pradesh's 69, and has since progressed into the Frontrunner category, the Index's top performance tier, in subsequent editions (Drishti IAS, 2026; IISPPR, 2025). Academic assessment of the state's goal-wise performance across the 16 scored SDGs, SDG 17 on partnerships being excluded from scoring, finds Telangana has consistently performed well on SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities, SDG 15, Life on Land, and SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, with significant additional progress recorded between 2019 and 2023-24 on SDG 1, No Poverty, SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy, and SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (IISPPR, 2025).

Set against this generally strong performance, the same assessment identifies one persistent and specific weakness: Telangana has consistently underperformed on SDG 5, Gender Equality, across every edition of the Index for which comparative data exists (IISPPR, 2025). This finding directly corroborates the gender-related concerns documented elsewhere in this framework, including the specific challenges facing women's economic participation and representation flagged in Chapter 7. On institutional SDG monitoring capacity specifically, the same academic review found that Telangana aligned its Aspirational District Programme focus areas with the SDGs but did not develop a dedicated State Indicator Framework or district-level indicator system of the kind some other states, such as Uttar Pradesh, have implemented, and further noted that the state's SDG-focused institutional body, the Centre for SDGs at the MCRHRD Institute, functions as a training and capacity-building body but does not publicly disclose its SDG tracking data, a transparency gap the assessment characterises as a concerning indicator of implementation and monitoring maturity given that the SDGs' 2030 target horizon is now less than four years away (IISPPR, 2025).

20.2 Gender Mainstreaming Across Sectors

The SDG India Index's specific and persistent finding of Telangana's underperformance on Gender Equality, documented in section 20.1, provides an important cross-cutting corrective to some of the more positive gender-related findings elsewhere in this framework, including the substantial scale and reach of the Mahalakshmi scheme documented in Chapter 7. It suggests that while the state's direct benefit transfer and free bus travel programming has delivered measurable, large-scale financial relief to women, this has not yet translated into the kind of structural gains in economic participation, political representation, and safety that

composite gender equality indices measure. This tension between highly visible, well-resourced welfare transfers and slower-moving structural indicators is consistent with the broader pattern this framework has identified across several chapters, where policy design and fiscal commitment are comparatively strong but underlying outcome data, including the labour force participation and political representation statistics flagged as gaps in Chapter 7, remains too sparse to fully verify whether structural gender equity is improving at a pace commensurate with the state's welfare spending.

20.3 Youth Policy and Demographic Dividend Realisation

As established in Chapter 1, Telangana's working-age population share reached approximately 70.2 percent as of 2025 estimates, a level exceeding earlier Technical Group projections, but the state's below-replacement total fertility rate of 1.8 means this demographic dividend window is finite, with the dependency ratio projected to begin rising again over the 2030s and 2040s (Grokopedia, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). Realising the economic potential of this current dividend depends directly on the effectiveness of the skill development and employability architecture documented in Chapter 17, spanning the Young India Skills University, TASK, and the state's Advanced Technology Centre conversion of former Industrial Training Institutes, as well as the youth innovation programming documented in that chapter's discussion of WE Hub's Grassroots Youth Innovation Program and Campuspreneur initiative. The central risk this framework identifies, synthesising findings from Chapters 5, 17, and this section, is a potential mismatch between the state's substantial multi-institutional skilling investment and the comparatively below-average educational expenditure share documented in Chapter 2, at 9.0 percent of total state expenditure against a 31-state average of 15.0 percent, a gap that could constrain the foundational education quality on which higher-level skilling and employability programmes ultimately depend.

20.4 Migration: Internal, Inter-State and International Dimensions

As documented in Chapter 1, Telangana's sex ratio patterns, showing 101.014 males per 100 females as of 2026 projections, are attributed partly to differential migration, with Hyderabad's information technology and services economy drawing substantial numbers of male migrant workers from other Indian states (StatisticsTimes.com, 2026; KPI AS Academy, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 1). This in-migration pattern is a direct consequence of the sectoral concentration documented throughout this framework, particularly the Global Capability Centre and pharmaceutical employment growth detailed in Chapters 3 and 4, which continues to draw skilled and semi-skilled labour into the Hyderabad metropolitan region from across India. On international migration specifically, the Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-2030's explicit strategy of engaging the global Telugu diaspora, documented in Chapter 19, reflects state government recognition of the size and economic significance of Telangana's international diaspora population, though comprehensive, current, quantified data on outward international migration, remittance flows, and diaspora economic contribution specific to the state was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report, and future

editions should draw on Ministry of External Affairs and Reserve Bank of India remittance data disaggregated by state of origin, where available, for a fuller treatment.

20.5 Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

Telangana's science, technology, and innovation architecture, documented extensively in Chapters 16 and 17, spans the state's AI-focused Digital Public Infrastructure, its eight-technology Emerging Technologies Wing framework covering artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, drones and robotics, augmented and virtual reality, space technology, and additive manufacturing, and its T-Hub-anchored startup ecosystem. The SDG India Index finding of significant progress on SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, between 2019 and 2023-24, documented in section 20.1, provides independent corroboration that this substantial institutional investment in science, technology, and innovation policy is translating into measurable outcomes on at least this composite indicator, a more encouraging finding than the implementation-gap pattern this framework has flagged in some other technology-adjacent domains, such as the heatwave preparedness execution gap documented in Chapter 14.

20.6 Statistical System Strengthening and Evidence-Based Policymaking

A recurring and significant theme across nearly every chapter of this framework has been the frequency with which comprehensive, current, granular, Telangana-specific data was simply unavailable in the sources reviewed, spanning domains as varied as mental health service availability in Chapter 6, urban local body finance in Chapter 11, and horticulture production statistics in Chapter 18. Section 20.1's finding that the state has not developed a dedicated State Indicator Framework for SDG tracking, and that its SDG-focused institutional body does not publicly disclose tracking data, is emblematic of this broader statistical system gap (IISPPR, 2025). Notably, this pattern of data gaps sits in some tension with the state's own considerable investment in digital governance and data infrastructure documented in Chapter 16, including its Enterprise WebGIS-based water infrastructure monitoring system documented in Chapter 10 and its ambitious AI-focused Digital Public Infrastructure. This suggests that Telangana's data and technology investment has been directed primarily toward operational service delivery systems rather than toward the public statistical transparency and district-level indicator frameworks that would allow independent researchers, and indeed future editions of this very framework, to assess the state's development progress with greater precision. Strengthening this public statistical layer, alongside the state's already substantial operational data infrastructure, represents one of the clearest cross-cutting institutional priorities this report can identify.

20.7 Public Participation: Behavioural Change and Citizen Engagement

Telangana's citizen engagement architecture, documented across multiple chapters of this framework, spans the digital citizen service channels detailed in Chapter 16, including MeeSeva and the police feedback application, the Gram Sabha-based social audit mechanisms embedded within the state's MGNREGA implementation documented in

Chapter 12, and the community-level heatwave preparedness training involving ASHA workers, anganwadi staff, and self-help groups documented in Chapter 14. The Mission Bhagiratha statewide Sarpanch feedback exercise documented in Chapter 10, which contacted 12,457 of the state's 12,728 gram panchayats across sixteen service dimensions, represents a particularly concrete and large-scale example of structured citizen feedback informing service delivery correction (DD News On Air, 2026, as discussed in Chapter 10). Notwithstanding these examples, the persistent implementation gaps documented across this framework, particularly the anganwadi heatwave vulnerability finding in Chapter 14, where identical vulnerability language appeared unaddressed across three successive years of planning documents, suggest that citizen and community feedback mechanisms, however well-designed on paper, do not always translate into the kind of sustained corrective action that genuine public participation is intended to produce. Closing this gap between participatory mechanism design and participatory outcome, across the housing, health, education, and disaster preparedness domains this framework has surveyed, represents a final, integrative priority for Telangana's governance reform agenda as the state moves into the concluding chapter of this framework's Vision 2047 assessment.

Chapter 21: State Vision 2047 — Strategic Priorities and Development Roadmap

21.1 Long-Term Vision and Flagship Missions

The Telangana Rising Vision 2047 document was unveiled by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on December 9, 2025, at the Rising Global Summit held in Bharat Future City on the outskirts of Hyderabad, before an audience that included actor Nagarjuna and Mahindra Group Chairperson Anand Mahindra, and was presented to the Chief Minister on stage by a humanoid robot named Ex-Man, a moment that captured the summit's deliberately futuristic framing (NewsMeter, 2025; The South First, 2025). The document was developed drawing on the aspirations and opinions of nearly 4 lakh people across the state's districts, with youth constituting 65 percent of participants in the consultation process, and was grounded analytically in the Penn World Table, a global database of national accounts covering 183 countries from 1950 to 2019, used to benchmark Telangana's growth targets against the historical growth trajectories of the small number of countries, including China and Japan, that have sustained gross domestic product growth rates of 11 percent or more over extended periods (NewsMeter, 2025; Indian News Network, 2025).

The vision sets a headline economic target of transforming Telangana from its current approximately US\$200 billion state economy into a US\$1 trillion, later revised in the final document to US\$1.2 trillion, economy by 2034, and a US\$3 trillion economy by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of Indian independence and aligning with the Union Government's own Viksit Bharat 2047 ambition of a US\$30 trillion national economy (The South First, 2025; Charan Group, 2025). Achieving this would require Telangana, currently home to roughly 2.5 to 2.7 percent of India's population and contributing 4.99 percent of national GDP as documented in Chapter 1, to double its share of national GDP to 10 percent by 2047 (Telangana Rising 2047, 2026a). The document envisions a structural shift within the economy itself, with the services sector, already contributing 65 percent of GSDP in the document's baseline framing, rising to 70 percent, generating nearly US\$1.9 trillion through high-value domains including information technology, financial services, logistics, tourism, and creative industries, while industry and agriculture, each currently accounting for 17 to 18 percent of output, are projected to stabilise at a combined lower share alongside a sharper focus on advanced manufacturing, clean mobility, life sciences, semiconductors, and export-oriented agri-food processing (The South First, 2025).

Several game-changer infrastructure projects anchor the vision's physical development agenda, including Bharat Future City itself, Musi River rejuvenation, a dry port, a greenfield highway extending to Bandar Port in neighboring Andhra Pradesh, the Regional Ring Road documented in Chapter 8, and prospective Ring Rail and high-speed bullet train corridors (The South First, 2025; NewsMeter, 2025). On the innovation front, the document proposes a Telangana Scientific Return Programme designed to attract global researchers of Telangana origin back to the state, EduCities conceived as next-generation learning hubs, and dedicated frontier technology missions intended to translate cutting-edge research into commercial

enterprise, extending the innovation ecosystem infrastructure documented in Chapter 17 (The South First, 2025).

21.2 Medium-Term Priority Action Plan (2025–2030)

The vision document articulates ten key implementation strategies intended to operationalise its long-term goals over the coming years. These include the three-zone CURE-PURE-RARE polycentric development model documented in Chapters 1, 3, and 4, a stated shift from administrative discretion to codified, transparent policy to improve investment attractiveness, the game-changer infrastructure projects documented in section 21.1, effective digital governance building on the T-Fibre and MeeSeva-adjacent initiatives documented in Chapter 16, positioning the state as a knowledge hub through world-class education and research institution attraction, sustainable welfare with specific focus on women, farmers, and youth, and the establishment of a dedicated development fund to attract global infrastructure investment (NewsMeter, 2025). A particularly ambitious flagship commitment within this medium-term agenda is the goal of creating one crore women millionaires by 2047, to be achieved through universal high-quality schooling, digital literacy, entrepreneurship support, and financial independence measures beginning with early female education, building directly on the Mahalakshmi scheme's current-generation welfare transfers documented in Chapter 7 (The South First, 2025). Farmers, under this medium-term framing, are envisioned to evolve progressively from cultivators into processors, brand owners, and exporters through advanced technology adoption, organic agriculture, and integration with global value chains, extending the agricultural value chain development priorities documented in Chapter 18.

21.3 Financing Strategy: Resource Mobilisation, Revenue Enhancement and Expenditure Rationalisation

The vision document identifies efficient financing as one of three central catalysts for its growth ambition, alongside technology and innovation and good governance, and proposes several concrete financing mechanisms (NewsMeter, 2025). Central among these is a strategy to substantially increase foreign direct investment inflows: the document notes that Telangana currently receives only approximately US\$2 to 3 billion in annual FDI, constituting roughly 35 percent of GSDP-relative benchmark terms, compared to Maharashtra's more than US\$15 billion annually, and sets a target of raising this ratio to 52 percent of the relevant benchmark to support the vision's growth ambitions, with education, skill development, and innovation strategically prioritised as the underlying enablers of this FDI expansion (Indian News Network, 2025). A further specific financing innovation proposed within the document is expanded use of municipal bonds to work around limitations imposed by the state's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework, discussed extensively in Chapter 2, leveraging the fact that Telangana's municipalities currently carry a solid AA+ credit rating that the document argues is underutilised as a financing instrument, provided municipal transparency and operational efficiency are strengthened in line with the urban local body finance concerns documented in Chapter 11 (Indian News Network, 2025).

This financing ambition sits directly against the fiscal sustainability concerns this framework has documented extensively in Chapter 2, where NITI Aayog's independent debt sustainability analysis found Telangana's debt trajectory predictably unsustainable on current trends, and where the CAG identified the state as the only Indian state with outstanding government guarantees exceeding 10 percent of GSDP. Reconciling the vision document's ambition to compress what its own analysts describe as roughly 25 years of organic growth into a 10-year acceleration window, with the state's already elevated debt and contingent liability position, represents perhaps the single most consequential unresolved tension this framework has identified across its full twenty-one-chapter assessment.

21.4 Centre-State Partnership: Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Special Grants

As documented in Chapter 2, Telangana's relationship with the Centre in the current period is shaped by volatility in centrally sponsored scheme grants, discontinuation of several grant categories previously available under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, and an improved horizontal devolution position under the Sixteenth Finance Commission's new GDP-contribution weighting. The Telangana Rising Vision 2047 was presented by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directly to the NITI Aayog Governing Council in New Delhi, receiving what state government communications describe as widespread appreciation from the Prime Minister and other state Chief Ministers, and is explicitly framed as aligning with, rather than operating independently of, the Union Government's own Viksit Bharat 2047 national vision (Telangana Rising 2047, 2026b). This positioning suggests the state intends to pursue its US\$3 trillion ambition substantially through continued and deepened Centre-State partnership rather than through a more autonomous or oppositional fiscal posture, a strategy that is consistent with the state's active pursuit of central government support documented elsewhere in this framework, including its request for expedited Metro Phase II approval in Chapter 8 and its pursuit of Ninth Schedule constitutional protection for its BC reservation legislation in Chapter 7.

21.5 Inter-State Cooperation: Regional Development Councils and River Boards

As documented in Chapter 4, Telangana's most significant inter-state cooperation and competition dynamics involve neighboring Andhra Pradesh, spanning shared river basin management under the Krishna and Godavari river systems documented in Chapter 10, and competitive investment attraction in overlapping high-value sectors including pharmaceuticals, information technology, and artificial intelligence infrastructure. The Vision 2047 document's own greenfield highway proposal extending to Bandar Port, located in Andhra Pradesh, illustrates that even the state's most forward-looking infrastructure planning explicitly assumes continued economic interdependence with its neighboring state, rather than the largely self-contained development model the two states pursued in the years immediately following the 2014 bifurcation. Comprehensive, current, formalised inter-state cooperation agreements specific to the Vision 2047 framework, beyond this infrastructure-level interdependence, were not identified in the sources reviewed for this report.

21.6 International Collaboration: Common Development Agenda and Global Partnership

The Vision 2047 document's stated ambition of establishing Telangana as a benchmark state for a China-plus-one manufacturing alternative zone reflects an explicit international positioning strategy, seeking to position the state within global supply chain diversification trends rather than solely within a domestic Indian growth narrative (Telangana Rising 2047, 2026b). This international orientation is reinforced by the Telangana Scientific Return Programme's explicit target of attracting global, diaspora-origin researchers back to the state, documented in section 21.1, and by the tourism policy's diaspora engagement strategy documented in Chapter 19. Taken together, these threads suggest the state's Vision 2047 framework treats international collaboration not as a peripheral add-on but as a structural precondition for reaching its growth targets, consistent with the FDI expansion strategy documented in section 21.3.

21.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Results Framework

Comprehensive, current, publicly disclosed data on the specific monitoring indicators, review cadence, and accountability mechanisms the state government intends to use to track progress against the Vision 2047 targets was not identified in the sources reviewed for this report. This represents a significant gap given the direct relevance of Chapter 20's finding that Telangana has not developed a dedicated State Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goal tracking and that its SDG-focused institutional body does not publicly disclose tracking data. If the Vision 2047 framework's implementation monitoring follows a similar pattern of institutional design without corresponding public transparency, independent assessment of the state's progress toward its 2034 and 2047 targets, including by future editions of this framework, will remain constrained. This report recommends, as a priority institutional reform, that the state establish and publicly disclose a dedicated, indicator-based monitoring framework specifically for Vision 2047, ideally integrated with rather than parallel to the state's existing SDG tracking obligations.

21.8 Accountability Architecture: Legislature, Civil Society and Citizens

The scale of public consultation claimed in the Vision 2047 document's development process, nearly 4 lakh participants with 65 percent youth representation, represents a genuinely substantial citizen engagement exercise by the standards of Indian state-level long-term planning documents (NewsMeter, 2025). Whether this front-loaded consultative legitimacy will be matched by comparable ongoing accountability mechanisms as implementation proceeds, particularly given the transparency gaps this framework has documented in Chapter 20's discussion of SDG monitoring and in the recurring implementation-versus-design gaps identified across Chapters 14, 15, and 19, remains an open question this framework cannot resolve with currently available information. This report's own recurring methodology across its twenty-one chapters, explicitly flagging every instance where comprehensive, current, verifiable data was unavailable rather than filling such gaps with estimation, is itself offered as a template for the kind of rigorous, evidence-based accountability that will be necessary if Telangana's considerable ambition, and its equally considerable fiscal exposure documented

in Chapter 2, are to be reconciled successfully over the roadmap's remaining two-decade horizon.

End Note

This Comprehensive Development Framework for the State of Telangana has attempted, across twenty-one chapters, to assemble a current, honestly sourced picture of a state defined by genuine contradiction: among India's fastest-growing state economies, yet flagged by its own national auditor as carrying an outlier level of contingent fiscal liability; a demonstrated leader in digital governance infrastructure, yet without a public, indicator-based framework for tracking its own Sustainable Development Goals or its newly launched Vision 2047; a state with strong maternal and infant mortality outcomes, yet with a documented, unresolved rise in child stunting and severe wasting; and a government whose climate and disaster planning is elaborate on paper, yet found by independent investigation to have left a specifically documented child-safety vulnerability unaddressed across three successive multi-year planning cycles.

None of these tensions are unique to Telangana among Indian states, and several of the state's achievements documented in this framework, its fiscal self-sufficiency, its Global Capability Centre and life sciences investment base, its Frontrunner-tier SDG performance, and its ambitious, broadly consultative Vision 2047 process, are genuinely distinctive. But a development framework that only reported the achievements would not be honest, and would not be useful. Wherever this report could not verify a claim against a current, credible source, it said so rather than estimating, and the resulting pattern of data gaps, spanning mental health services, horticulture statistics, urban local body finance, and civil service vacancy rates among others, is itself a finding: Telangana's statistical and monitoring infrastructure has not kept pace with either its economic ambition or its welfare spending, and closing that gap is a precondition for everything else in this report's twenty-one chapters to be properly evaluated, corrected, and built upon in the years ahead.

Council for Comprehensive Development Frameworks

Youth Peace and Development (YPD) Forum

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