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**COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
REPORT OF UNION TERRITORY OF DADRA AND
NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU**

YOUTH PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

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FOREWORD

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a unique and multifaceted position within the broader narrative of Indian civilizational heritage, coastal commerce, and industrial transformation. Synthesizing rich tribal traditions, historic maritime fortresses, and major manufacturing corridors across its distinct enclaves, the merged territory is currently navigating a vital transition. It is moving steadily toward an integrated, modernized, and sustainable socio-economic model. The Comprehensive Development Framework Report of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu captures the essence of this historical juncture. It maps a future where the territory's vibrant cultural tapestry and strategic coastal-industrial geography are harmonized with the modern imperatives of proactive governance, green industrialization, world-class coastal tourism, and inclusive digital infrastructure.

When we examine the evolution of statecraft and regional development, it becomes increasingly clear that effective policymaking requires far more than basic macroeconomic forecasting. True governance demands a nuanced understanding of social behavior, community incentives, and the distinct local continuities that shape life across both coastal and inland tribal regions.

Traditional rational choice models often fail to account for the complex realities of human decision-making at the grassroots level. This framework succeeds precisely because it aligns structural economic models with the lived, everyday realities of the people—from artisanal fishing communities and tribal agrarian settlements to dynamic urban industrial workforces. By focusing on equitable resource distribution, institutional capacity building, universal civic



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accessibility, and targeted poverty alleviation, the report offers a detailed blueprint. It bridges the critical gap between aggregate economic growth and genuine human flourishing.

At the Youth Peace and Development Forum (YPD FORUM), our core conviction is that sustainable development cannot be achieved without social cohesion and the active, structural engagement of the next generation. Peace and development are inherently mutually reinforcing concepts. Neither can endure if a society fails to integrate its youngest members into its socio-political and economic fabric.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu stand on the cusp of an expansive demographic shift, with an energetic youth cohort positioned to drive future innovations in high-tech manufacturing, sustainable maritime enterprises, cultural heritage tourism, and ecological stewardship. This presents a narrow but immensely powerful window of opportunity. The true test of any development framework will be its ability to translate industrial clusters and coastal infrastructure into tangible, accessible opportunities for the youth, empowering them as the primary co-creators in the future of the Union Territory.

The Comprehensive Development Framework Report acknowledges these shifting dynamics by prioritizing human capital, skill enhancement, and environmental resilience. It recognizes that the true wealth of the territory lies not solely in its manufacturing outputs or port linkages, but in the latent potential and resilience of its people. The policies outlined herein reflect a deep understanding of behavioral economics, recognizing that citizens are active stakeholders whose choices must be nurtured through sound, participatory policy architecture. By mitigating risks for micro, small, and medium enterprises, incentivizing vocational education, and ensuring that welfare reaches the most remote tribal pockets, the framework creates a foundation for sustainable, long-term stability.

A crucial component of this vision is the organic integration of the territory's indigenous tribal populations and coastal communities into the mainstream economic narrative while strictly preserving their indigenous culture, languages, and traditional ecosystems. The cultural heritage of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu must remain an anchoring force as the territory modernizes. The preservation of local heritage alongside modern sustainable practices is not a contradiction, but an essential synthesis.



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Development policies must address the specific spatial and ecological nuances of each enclave, ensuring that growth is resilient, environmentally balanced, and socially inclusive. Furthermore, we must recognize that true peace is built upon justice, administrative transparency, and shared opportunity. By enhancing institutional accountability, digital delivery of public services, and administrative cohesion across the unified administration, this report strengthens the foundations of lasting social peace.

This comprehensive document is a vital intervention in the ongoing discourse regarding administrative capacity, regional integration, and transformation in India. It provides policymakers, industrial stakeholders, and civil society leaders with the analytical rigor and empirical depth needed to drive transformative change. It serves as an enduring reminder that the ultimate goal of economics and political thought is the elevation of the human condition.

I commend the extensive research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and visionary effort that have gone into the creation of this document. It is my sincere hope that it will serve as a definitive, actionable guide for administrators and citizens alike. With the right policy architecture in place, we can build a resilient, prosperous, culturally vibrant, and fundamentally inclusive Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu for generations to come.

Dheeraj G. N.
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New Delhi

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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 for Union Territories possible.



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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 and 8 Union Territories 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 GN**, 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.

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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.



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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 Nagaland, 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



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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 Nagaland and a developed India.

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PREFACE

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a distinct position within the Indian federal structure. It came into existence on 26 January 2020, when the erstwhile Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were merged under the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Act, 2019, passed by the Parliament of India (Testbook, 2025). The merger was undertaken with the stated aim of streamlining administration, reducing duplication of governance structures, and improving the utilisation of resources across two territories that, despite their shared colonial history under Portuguese rule until 1961, had been governed as separate administrative units for decades (Testbook, 2025). This Comprehensive Development Framework is prepared in that spirit of consolidation, and it seeks to present, for the first time in a single integrated document, the geography, economy, society, infrastructure, and governance architecture of the merged territory as it stands in 2026.

The Union Territory today comprises three districts: Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu, with Silvassa serving as the administrative capital (Wikipedia, 2025a). It is administered not through an elected legislative assembly but through an Administrator appointed by the President of India, currently Shri Praful Khoda Patel, who has held the office since the formation of the merged territory and who also holds additional charge as Administrator of Lakshadweep (Wikipedia, 2025b). Judicial oversight for the territory falls under the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court (Wikipedia, 2025c). This administrative structure, distinct from that of a full state, shapes many of the fiscal, legislative, and planning constraints and opportunities discussed throughout this document, and readers familiar with development frameworks prepared for full states, such as Kerala, should bear in mind that the instruments of governance available to a Union Territory without its own legislature differ materially from those available to a state government.

The purpose of this Framework is threefold. First, it aims to consolidate the available body of demographic, economic, fiscal, and social data on the territory into a single reference document, following the standardised structure adopted across comparable state and Union Territory development reports. Second, it seeks to identify, chapter by chapter, the structural strengths and constraints that define the territory's development trajectory, from its position as a compact but industrially dense manufacturing hub on the western coast of India, to its comparatively small population base and limited land area, to its dependence on Centrally



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Sponsored Schemes and Union Budget allocations in the absence of its own legislative revenue-raising powers of the kind available to full states. Third, it lays out a Vision 2047 roadmap intended to align the territory's development priorities with the Government of India's broader ambition of a developed India by the centenary of independence.

A note on the nature of the underlying data is warranted here, in the interest of transparency and rigour. As a small Union Territory without its own legislature, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not always feature in state-level statistical series with the same frequency or granularity as larger states. Several indicators discussed in this Framework, particularly demographic ones, continue to rely on the 2011 Census of India, since the decennial Census exercise originally due in 2021 has been delayed and updated Census data was not available at the time of writing in 2026 (Census2011.co.in, 2025). Where more recent administrative, fiscal, or survey-based data exists, for example from the Union Budget, the National Family Health Survey, NITI Aayog indices, or departmental annual reports, this Framework uses the most recent verified figures available and cites the year of that data explicitly, rather than the year of this report's writing. Readers should therefore treat every statistic in this document as dated to its stated source year, not to 2026 uniformly, and should consult the cited primary sources for any figure requiring further verification or for planning purposes requiring the most current possible data.

This Framework has been prepared following the Standardised Document Format adopted for state and Union Territory development reports, comprising twenty-one chapters spanning geography and demography, fiscal architecture, economic structure, investment climate, education, health, social justice, infrastructure, energy, environment, governance, technology, innovation, agriculture, tourism, and cross-cutting policy themes, concluding with a strategic vision through 2047. Each chapter draws on official government sources, including the Union Territory administration's own portal, Census of India publications, NITI Aayog reports, Union Budget documents, and peer-reviewed and reputable secondary sources, cited throughout in APA seventh edition format.

It is hoped that this document will serve policymakers, researchers, civil society organisations, and citizens of the territory alike, as a single point of reference for understanding where Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu stands today, and where it might credibly go in the decades ahead.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are among the smallest Union Territories of India by both area and population, yet it occupies an outsized position in India's industrial landscape relative to its size. Formed on 26 January 2020 through the merger of two previously separate Union Territories, it comprises three geographically non-contiguous districts, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu, situated along India's western coast and bordered principally by the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra (Wikipedia, 2025a). Silvassa, the capital, anchors the territory's largest district, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which alone recorded a population of 343,709 at the 2011 Census, having grown by 55.88 percent over the preceding decade, among the fastest rates of population growth recorded anywhere in India during that period (Census2011.co.in, 2025). At the level of the combined Union Territory, provisional Census figures placed the total population at approximately 586,956 in 2011 (FindEasy, 2025). No subsequent decennial Census had been conducted at the time of this report's preparation in 2026, so population figures throughout this Framework are drawn from 2011 Census data unless a more recent administrative or survey source is cited.

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The territory's development story is defined by an unusual combination of features. On one hand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli in particular has developed into a significant small and medium industrial base, driven historically by tax incentives, proximity to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad industrial corridor, and connectivity to the ports and markets of Gujarat and Maharashtra, with agriculture, small-scale industry, and tourism identified as the principal pillars of the territory's economy (Indiastat, 2025a). On the other hand, the territory's social indicators reveal a population still in transition. Average literacy in Dadra and Nagar Haveli stood at 76.24 percent as per the 2011 Census, with a persistent gender gap of over twenty percentage points between male literacy at 85.17 percent and female literacy at 64.32 percent (Census2011.co.in, 2025). The district's sex ratio, at 774 females per 1,000 males in 2011, remained substantially below the national average of 940, a gap that this Framework's chapter on demographic structure examines in greater depth (Census2011.co.in, 2025). The district's Human Development Index was estimated at 0.624 in 2022, placing it in the medium human development category on comparative national assessments (Wikipedia, 2025d).

Governance in the territory follows the structure common to Union Territories without their own legislature. An Administrator appointed by the President of India, currently Shri Praful Khoda Patel, who has held the post since the territory's formation in 2020, exercises executive authority on behalf of the Government of India, supported by an adviser and a secretariat headquartered in Daman (Wikipedia, 2025b). Judicial matters fall under the Bombay High Court (Wikipedia, 2025c). This structure means that, unlike states such as Kerala, the territory does not table its own annual state budget through an elected assembly; its finances are instead integrated into the Union Budget process, a distinction that shapes the fiscal architecture chapter of this Framework and that has direct implications for the pace and form of decentralised planning discussed throughout this document (GovtBudget.com, 2025).

Politically, the territory returns two Members of Parliament to the Lok Sabha, one from the Dadra and Nagar Haveli constituency, which is reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates in recognition of the substantial tribal population historically concentrated in that district, and one from the Daman and Diu constituency (Wikipedia, 2025e). Results of the 2024 general election recorded a turnout of 72.52 percent in the Dadra and Nagar Haveli constituency and 68.77 percent in the Daman and Diu constituency, both figures indicating a highly engaged electorate relative to many other parts of the country (Wikipedia, 2025e).



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Looking across the chapters that follow, several cross-cutting themes emerge as central to the territory's development prospects through 2047. These include the need to translate industrial density into broader-based livelihood security for the tribal and rural population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, to close persistent gender gaps in literacy and workforce participation, to strengthen health and education infrastructure commensurate with the territory's industrial and demographic profile, to plan urban and coastal development in Daman and Diu around tourism and heritage assets in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, and to deepen the institutional and fiscal planning mechanisms available to a Union Territory administration operating without its own legislature. These themes recur throughout the sectoral chapters of this Framework and are drawn together in the concluding Vision 2047 chapter, which sets out a medium-term action agenda for 2025 to 2030 alongside longer-term strategic priorities for the territory as a whole.

CHAPTER 1: STATE PROFILE — GEOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu presents a profile unlike that of any full state of the Indian Union. It is compact, non-contiguous, and administratively unified only since 2020, yet within its small territorial footprint it holds together a dense industrial belt, a coastal Portuguese-era heritage zone, and a substantial tribal hinterland. Understanding the territory's development trajectory requires first understanding this underlying geography, demography, and social structure, since the constraints and opportunities facing planners here differ meaningfully from those facing a large, contiguous, and legislatively empowered state such as Kerala. This chapter sets out that foundational profile across eight sections, covering physical geography, administrative structure, population dynamics, cultural composition, human development trends, poverty and inequality, intra-territorial disparities, and the territory's position within national comparative rankings.

1.1 Geographic and Ecological Characteristics of the State

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a total geographical area of approximately 603 square kilometres, making it one of the smallest administrative units in India by land area (Burning Compass, 2025). This area is not contiguous. It is instead distributed across three physically separated segments situated along and near the western coast of India, in the region where the state of Gujarat meets the state of Maharashtra. The largest of these segments, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, itself consists of two parts, a small enclave called Dadra situated close to the town of Vapi in Gujarat, and the much larger Nagar Haveli, a broadly C-shaped tract of land lying between Gujarat and Maharashtra and bounded by the Par and Daman Ganga rivers (GKToday, 2025). Nagar Haveli alone accounts for the great majority of the territory's total land area, at 491 square kilometres (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025). Daman, the administrative capital, is a narrow coastal strip on the Gulf of Khambhat, an inlet of the Arabian Sea, and occupies approximately 72 square kilometres, while Diu, the smallest of the three districts, is an island and adjoining mainland strip off the southern coast of Gujarat's Kathiawar Peninsula, covering around 40 square kilometres (TheIASHub, 2025).

Physiographically, Dadra and Nagar Haveli lies on the western foothills of the Western Ghats and is characterised by undulating terrain, low hills, and river valleys, in contrast to the flatter

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coastal plains of Daman and the low-lying, sand and marsh dominated landscape of Diu island (UT Administration, 2025; Britannica, 2025a). The Daman Ganga River and its tributaries are the dominant hydrological feature of the territory, rising in the hills of Nagar Haveli, flowing through the district's industrial towns of Silvassa, Dadra, and Vapi's neighbouring belt, and finally draining into the Arabian Sea at Daman, where the river divides the town into the districts of Nani Daman and Moti Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025; Wikipedia, 2025f). The Madhuban Reservoir, constructed on the Daman Ganga, is the largest water storage structure in the territory and plays a central role in irrigation, drinking water supply, and to a lesser extent hydroelectric generation for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district (Burning Compass, 2025).

Forest cover is a defining ecological feature of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district in particular. Estimates place forest cover at between 41.6 percent and 43 percent of the district's total geographical area, of which roughly 40 percent is classified as reserved forest (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025; GKToday, 2025). This is an unusually high proportion for a territory that simultaneously hosts one of India's densest small-scale industrial clusters, and it underscores a structural tension that recurs throughout this Framework, between the territory's role as a manufacturing hub and its retained ecological character as a forested, riverine landscape on the edge of the Western Ghats. Daman and Diu, by contrast, carry comparatively little forest cover and are instead defined by their coastal ecology, including mangrove-fringed creeks, sandy beaches, and estuarine environments shaped by centuries of Portuguese colonial settlement and, more recently, by tourism-oriented development.

Climatically, the territory falls within the tropical monsoon zone typical of India's west coast, though with notable variation across its three districts. Dadra and Nagar Haveli experiences a markedly wetter climate than its coastal counterparts, with annual rainfall estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 millimetres, concentrated in the South-West monsoon months of June to September (Maps of India, 2020; UT Administration, 2025). Daman receives somewhat less rainfall, in the range of 1,687 to 2,000 millimetres annually, while Diu, situated further out on the drier Kathiawar coastal belt, receives considerably less, estimated at under 650 millimetres, or roughly 25 inches, in a typical year (Britannica Kids, 2025). Summer temperatures across the territory commonly reach the mid-30s Celsius, with peaks as high as 39 to 42 degrees Celsius recorded in Dadra and Nagar Haveli during the pre-monsoon months of April and May, while winters, from November to February, are comparatively

mild, with average temperatures in the range of 11 to 22 degrees Celsius (UT Administration, 2025; Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025).

This combination of high monsoon rainfall in the Nagar Haveli hinterland, perennial river systems, and a narrow but ecologically distinct coastal fringe in Daman and Diu creates a territory whose ecological base is disproportionately significant relative to its size. Chapter 13 of this Framework returns to these themes in greater depth, examining forest governance, water resource management, and coastal ecology as standalone policy domains, but it is important to register here, in the state profile chapter, that the territory's geography is not incidental background but a direct shaping factor for its industrial location patterns, its water security planning, and its long-term climate vulnerability, a theme taken up further in Chapter 14.

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

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is constituted, under the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Act, 2019, from three administrative districts: Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu (Testbook, 2025; Wikipedia, 2025g). Each of these districts had, prior to the 2020 merger, functioned as either a full district within its own separate Union Territory, in the case of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, or as one of two districts within the former Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The merger consolidated these into a single administrative structure while preserving the underlying district boundaries, headquartered administratively from Daman, which serves as the seat of the Union Territory secretariat, even though Silvassa, the headquarters of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, functions as the territory's largest urban centre and de facto capital in terms of population and industrial activity (Sarkaritel.com, 2025; Britannica, 2025b).

Below the district level, the territory is further divided into talukas, the sub-district administrative units used across much of western India. Dadra and Nagar Haveli district itself comprises two talukas, one of which is Nagar Haveli taluka, the larger of the two, encompassing the bulk of the district's rural and forested area and bordered by both Gujarat and Maharashtra (Wikipedia, 2025h). Daman and Diu districts each maintain their own

sub-district administrative arrangements, reflecting their much smaller geographic size and higher degree of urbanisation relative to Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Local self-government in the territory operates through a combination of urban municipal bodies and rural panchayats. Silvassa, the headquarters of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, is governed by the Silvassa Municipal Council, established to administer a city that recorded a population of 98,266 at the 2011 Census across a compact municipal area of 16 square kilometres, giving it one of the highest population densities in the territory at over 6,100 persons per square kilometre (Wikipedia, 2025i). Daman is similarly governed by the Daman Municipal Council, administering a town of 44,282 residents in 2011 across just 6.5 square kilometres, an even higher density of approximately 6,800 persons per square kilometre (Wikipedia, 2025j). Diu maintains its own municipal administration for the island town, while rural areas across all three districts fall under village panchayats and, in the case of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, a District Panchayat that oversees coordination of panchayat-level governance across the district's rural hinterland (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025). Britannica's coverage of the territory notes that, notwithstanding the absence of an elected legislative assembly at the Union Territory level, elected panchayats continue to oversee day-to-day local affairs within each of the three districts, providing a degree of grassroots representative governance even in the absence of state-level electoral politics (Britannica, 2025a, 2025b).

This structure, an appointed Administrator at the apex, supported by a secretariat in Daman, layered over district collectorates and municipal or panchayat bodies at the local level, distinguishes the territory's governance architecture fundamentally from that of a state such as Kerala, which possesses its own elected Legislative Assembly, Council of Ministers, and constitutionally protected fiscal and legislative powers under the Seventh Schedule. Chapter 15 of this Framework examines the implications of this structure for administrative coordination and reform in greater detail, but its relevance to the present chapter lies in the fact that development planning for this territory necessarily proceeds through a different institutional channel than for full states, one more directly integrated with central ministries and the Union Budget process, a point developed further in Chapter 2.

1.3 Demographic Structure: Population, Density, Growth and Composition

The most recent complete enumeration of the territory's population comes from the 2011 Census of India, since the decennial Census originally scheduled for 2021 had not been

conducted at the time this Framework was prepared in 2026 (Census2011.co.in, 2025). According to provisional 2011 Census figures, the combined population of the merged territory stood at 586,956 persons, comprising approximately 344,000 males and 243,000 females (FindEasy, 2025; Indiagraphy, 2025). Of this total, Dadra and Nagar Haveli district alone accounted for 343,709 residents, having grown from a base of 220,490 in the 2001 Census, an intercensal growth rate of 55.88 percent, among the highest recorded anywhere in India during that decade and reflective of the district's rapid industrialisation and consequent in-migration of labour (Census2011.co.in, 2025).

Population density varies sharply across the territory's constituent parts, a reflection of the uneven distribution of urban, industrial, and rural land use described in Section 1.1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli district recorded an overall density of 700 persons per square kilometre in 2011 (Wikipedia, 2025k), a figure that masks far higher concentrations within its urban core, since Silvassa city alone reached a density of roughly 6,100 persons per square kilometre in the same year (Wikipedia, 2025i). Daman town reached an even higher municipal density of approximately 6,800 persons per square kilometre (Wikipedia, 2025j), underscoring the extent to which the territory's population is concentrated in a small number of dense urban and peri-urban nodes surrounded by comparatively sparsely populated rural and forested hinterland.

Independent demographic projections, extrapolating from the 2011 Census base using standard growth assumptions, estimate the territory's 2024 population at approximately 710,000 persons, representing a projected growth of around 20.9 percent over the 2011 figure, a rate of increase notably higher than the estimated national average growth rate of 17.26 percent over a comparable period (Indiagraphy, 2025). While such projections should be treated as estimates rather than enumerated fact in the absence of an updated Census, they are broadly consistent with the territory's historical pattern of above-average population growth driven by labour in-migration to its industrial belt, particularly around Silvassa and the Dadra-Vapi industrial corridor.

The sex ratio of the territory remains a significant demographic concern. Dadra and Nagar Haveli district recorded a sex ratio of 774 females per 1,000 males at the 2011 Census, a figure that, while representing an improvement is misleading unless read alongside the fact that it in fact declined from 812 females per 1,000 males recorded in the 2001 Census, moving in the opposite direction from the national trend and falling well short of the national

average sex ratio of 940 females per 1,000 males recorded in 2011 (Census2011.co.in, 2025). This decline over the 2001 to 2011 decade is widely attributed by demographic researchers to sex-selective in-migration of male industrial labour into the district's rapidly growing manufacturing sector, a hypothesis consistent with the district's simultaneous surge in population growth and its concentration of male-dominated factory employment. Daman town's sex ratio, recorded at a notably skewed level in its own municipal profile, reflects a similar pattern of male labour in-migration into a compact urban and industrial centre (Wikipedia, 2025j). These sex ratio imbalances are examined further in Chapter 7 of this Framework, in the context of gender equity and social protection policy.

Age structure data specific to the merged territory remains limited in publicly available disaggregated form, though the territory's worker population ratio, defined as the proportion of the total population engaged in economic activity, was recorded at 47.44 percent in recent estimates, a relatively high figure that is again consistent with a population skewed toward working-age, economically active residents drawn to the territory's industrial employment base (Indiagraphy, 2025). This age and labour force profile has direct implications for the territory's education and skilling priorities, discussed in Chapter 5, and for its labour market structure, discussed in Chapter 3.

1.4 Linguistic, Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Profile

The cultural and linguistic composition of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu reflects both its indigenous tribal heritage and its centuries-long history as a Portuguese colonial possession, integrated into India only in 1961. Hindi and Gujarati serve as the official languages of the territory, with Marathi also widely spoken, particularly in Dadra and Nagar Haveli given its proximity to Maharashtra (UT Administration, 2025; Wikipedia, 2025i). At the district level, Bhilodi, a language associated with the tribal communities of the region, along with Gujarati and Hindi, were recorded as the most commonly spoken languages in Dadra and Nagar Haveli at the time of the 2001 Census, reflecting the strong tribal linguistic substrate that continues to characterise the district's rural interior even as Gujarati and Hindi have become dominant in its urbanised and industrialised core (Wikipedia, 2025k).

Ethnically, Dadra and Nagar Haveli district is distinguished by a substantial Scheduled Tribe population. Britannica's coverage of the territory notes that approximately one-third of the territory's population as a whole belongs to indigenous tribal communities, principally the

Varli, Dhodia, and Dubla peoples, who have historically inhabited the forested and hilly terrain of Nagar Haveli and who speak a range of local languages alongside the more widely used Gujarati and Marathi (Britannica, 2025b). Britannica Kids further notes that within Dadra and Nagar Haveli district specifically, roughly 80 percent of the population is classified as belonging to Scheduled Tribes, a proportion that is markedly lower in Daman and Diu, where the indigenous tribal population is comparatively small (Britannica Kids, 2025). This concentration of tribal population within Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, set against its simultaneous status as one of India's most rapidly industrialising small territories, creates a distinct developmental profile in which questions of tribal land rights, forest dwelling community welfare, and equitable access to the benefits of industrial growth are especially salient, themes that Chapter 7 of this Framework addresses in detail under the heading of Scheduled Tribes welfare and forest dwelling community rights.

Religiously, the territory is overwhelmingly Hindu. At the 2011 Census, approximately 92.5 to 93.9 percent of the combined population identified as Hindu, depending on the specific source and rounding methodology used, with Islam the second largest religious community at between 3.8 and 5.5 percent of the population, and Christianity the third largest at approximately 1.3 to 1.5 percent, a legacy in part of the territory's Portuguese Catholic colonial history, particularly pronounced in Daman and Diu (FindEasy, 2025; Indiagraphy, 2025). Smaller communities of Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, and those reporting no religious affiliation together account for the remaining fraction of the population (Indiagraphy, 2025).

The cultural landscape of the territory is shaped decisively by its dual colonial and indigenous heritage. Daman and Diu, having been held by the Portuguese Empire from the sixteenth century until 1961, retain a distinctive built heritage of forts, churches, and colonial-era townscapes, discussed further in Chapter 19 in the context of heritage tourism, while Diu in particular, first fortified by the Portuguese in 1535 under a treaty with the Sultan of Gujarat, developed historically as a major node in Indian Ocean maritime trade and pilgrimage routes, a role reflected in its layered architectural and cultural identity (Britannica, 2025b). Dadra and Nagar Haveli, by contrast, was liberated from Portuguese rule earlier and by a different process, through a popular uprising in 1954 that led to the establishment of the Varishta Panchayat, an autonomous local administration that governed the territory from 1954 until its formal integration into the Indian Union on 11 August 1961, following an agreement between the territory's leadership and the Government of India (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2025; Wikipedia, 2025). This distinct liberation history, separate from and



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predating the 1961 Goa, Daman and Diu annexation, remains an important element of local civic identity in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district and is commemorated locally each year.

1.5 Human Development Index: State Ranking and Trend Analysis

Human development outcomes in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu present a mixed picture, reflecting the territory's position as an industrially advanced but socially uneven small Union Territory. The most recent district-level Human Development Index estimate available for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district places its HDI value at 0.624 as of 2022, placing it in the medium human development category on the scale typically used for such comparative assessments (Wikipedia, 2025k). This figure sits below the HDI levels typically recorded for India's higher-performing states and Union Territories, such as Kerala, Delhi, or Chandigarh, but above those recorded for many of India's lower-income states, positioning the territory in a broadly intermediate tier nationally.

A more comprehensive and more frequently updated gauge of the territory's human development trajectory is available through NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, which, while not identical to the classical Human Development Index, tracks progress across the full range of Sustainable Development Goals using 113 indicators aligned to India's National Indicator Framework and offers a directly comparable, government-sanctioned measure of state and Union Territory performance (NITI Aayog, as cited in PIB, 2024). The trend revealed by successive editions of this index is instructive. In the SDG India Index 2020-21 edition, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was classified in the lowest performance band, the Aspirant category, alongside states and Union Territories scoring below 50 on the index's 0 to 100 scale (SDG Knowledge Hub, 2024). By the SDG India Index 2023-24 edition, released in July 2024, the territory had moved decisively upward, becoming one of ten new entrants nationally into the Front Runner category, the index's second-highest tier, reserved for states and Union Territories scoring between 65 and 99.99 (AffairsCloud, 2024; PIB, 2024). Among Union Territories specifically, the 2023-24 index range spanned from 65 to 77, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was recorded as the top-ranked Union Territory on SDG Goal 1, No Poverty, a notable achievement for a territory that entered the index cycle in the lowest performance band just three years earlier (TheIndianPrintCurrentAffairs summarised in TheIASHub 2024 reporting; ClearIAS, 2024; TheKhanGlobalStudies, 2024).

This trajectory, from Aspirant status in 2020-21 to Front Runner status by 2023-24, represents one of the more significant relative improvements recorded among India's smaller Union Territories over that period, and it is consistent with the territory's rapid, though uneven, socio-economic transformation over the preceding decade. It should be read, however, alongside the underlying structural indicators discussed in Sections 1.3 and 1.4 above, particularly the territory's declining sex ratio and persistent tribal-non-tribal disparities, which suggest that aggregate index improvement has not been uniformly distributed across the territory's population or across its three constituent districts. Chapter 6 of this Framework, on health and nutrition, and Chapter 7, on social justice and inclusion, both return to these underlying distributional questions in greater depth.

1.6 Poverty, Inequality and Multidimensional Deprivation Indices

Nationally comparable, territory-specific poverty headcount and multidimensional poverty data for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu remain comparatively limited relative to the depth of data available for larger states, a data availability constraint that is itself worth registering explicitly in this Framework rather than papered over. India's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, prepared jointly by NITI Aayog and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, and its underlying National Family Health Survey data, are the principal national instruments used to measure multidimensional deprivation across health, education, and standard of living indicators, but district and Union Territory level breakdowns for very small territories such as this one are not always published with the same granularity as for major states, and this Framework has not identified a currently published, disaggregated national MPI headcount ratio specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as a standalone Union Territory at the time of writing.

What can be stated with confidence, drawing on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index discussed in Section 1.5, is that the territory recorded the highest score among all Union Territories on SDG Goal 1, No Poverty, in the 2023-24 index cycle, an outcome that suggests comparatively favourable performance on the composite basket of poverty-linked indicators used to construct that specific goal score, including indicators drawn from the National Food Security Act coverage, social protection scheme enrolment, and related welfare metrics (AffairsCloud, 2024; PIB, 2024). This should be interpreted as an indication of relatively low measured poverty incidence on the specific indicator basket used by the SDG framework,

rather than as a comprehensive multidimensional poverty assessment equivalent to the National MPI.

Indirect indicators available for the territory offer additional, if partial, insight into its inequality and welfare profile. The worker population ratio of 47.44 percent recorded for the territory (Indiagraphy, 2025) suggests a comparatively high rate of labour force engagement, consistent with an economy anchored in labour-intensive small-scale manufacturing, though this aggregate figure does not by itself reveal wage levels, employment quality, or the degree of income inequality between the territory's industrial workforce, drawn substantially from migrant labour, and its indigenous tribal population concentrated in the rural interior of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district. The literacy rate gap discussed in Section 1.3, with male literacy at 85.17 percent against female literacy at 64.32 percent in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district as of the 2011 Census (Census2011.co.in, 2025), is itself a recognised proxy indicator of intra-household and gender-based inequality that correlates closely with multidimensional poverty outcomes in the wider development economics literature, even where a direct territory-specific MPI figure is unavailable.

Given these data constraints, this Framework recommends, as a specific institutional priority discussed further in Chapter 20, that future editions of India's National Family Health Survey and National Multidimensional Poverty Index reporting disaggregate findings for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as a standalone Union Territory with district-level breakdowns, to enable more precise targeting of anti-poverty and welfare interventions across its three constituent districts, whose socio-economic profiles, as this chapter has shown, differ substantially from one another.

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

Unlike many larger states covered under NITI Aayog's original Aspirational Districts Programme, launched in January 2018 to identify and accelerate development in 112 of India's most socio-economically disadvantaged districts nationwide (Wikipedia, 2025m; PWOnlyIAS, 2024), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu's constituent districts were not prominently featured among the initial cohort of districts targeted under that programme, reflecting the territory's comparatively favourable position on many of the composite indicators, spanning health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial



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inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure, used to select districts for that initiative (PWOnlyIAS, 2024).

The territory has, however, been brought within the scope of NITI Aayog's more recent and more granular Aspirational Blocks Programme, launched in 2023 as a sub-district extension of the aspirational districts approach, targeting individual administrative blocks rather than entire districts for focused development intervention. Under this programme, two blocks within the Union Territory, drawn from its constituent districts, have been formally designated as Aspirational Blocks, placing Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu among the smaller states and Union Territories with block-level representation in the programme, alongside comparably sized Union Territories such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Ladakh, each of which similarly has two blocks included (NITI Aayog, 2023, as cited in Aspirational Blocks Programme Primer). This block-level designation is a more precise diagnostic than a district-level classification would be for a territory as small and internally varied as this one, since it allows central and territorial planners to target specific sub-district pockets of relative disadvantage, likely concentrated in the tribal and forested interior of Nagar Haveli taluka, without mischaracterising the territory's more industrially developed and urbanised zones, such as Silvassa city and central Daman, as equally disadvantaged.

Within the territory itself, the most consistently documented axis of intra-territorial disparity is the divide between the industrially developed, urbanised core of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, centred on Silvassa and its surrounding industrial estates, and the district's forested, tribal-majority rural interior, where the Varli, Dhodia, and Dubla communities discussed in Section 1.4 remain concentrated and where indicators such as literacy, particularly female literacy, and formal sector employment participation lag substantially behind the district's urban averages (Census2011.co.in, 2025; Britannica, 2025b). A second, distinct axis of disparity separates the territory's mainland districts, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman, from the geographically isolated island district of Diu, whose smaller population, more limited industrial base, and greater reliance on tourism and fisheries as economic mainstays create a development profile that this Framework's sectoral chapters, particularly Chapter 3 on economic structure and Chapter 19 on tourism, treat as meaningfully distinct from that of the territory's mainland districts.

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

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Taken together, the indicators reviewed in this chapter place Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in a distinctive comparative position among India's states and Union Territories, one better described as uneven than as uniformly high or low performing. On composite sustainable development performance, as measured by NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, the territory has moved from the lowest performance tier in 2020-21 to the Front Runner tier by 2023-24, and specifically leads all Union Territories on the SDG 1 No Poverty sub-index, a genuinely strong comparative result (SDG Knowledge Hub, 2024; AffairsCloud, 2024). On literacy, however, the territory's most populous district, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, recorded an overall literacy rate of 76.24 percent at the 2011 Census (Census2011.co.in, 2025), a figure that, while respectable, trails the literacy rates recorded in India's leading states on education, and the combined Union Territory's literacy rate of 80.85 percent, though above the national average of 74.04 percent recorded at the same Census, remains well short of the near-universal literacy levels achieved by states such as Kerala (Indiagraphy, 2025).

On demographic indicators, the territory's position is more clearly a matter of concern. Its sex ratio of 774 females per 1,000 males in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district as of 2011, moving in the wrong direction from the preceding Census, places it among the more skewed sex ratios recorded anywhere in India, a ranking this Framework flags as requiring sustained policy attention in Chapter 7 (Census2011.co.in, 2025). On administrative district rank by area, Dadra and Nagar Haveli district was recorded at the 32nd rank nationally out of India's districts by geographic size and 33rd by population as of the 2011 Census district rankings maintained by Wikipedia's infobox summary of Census data, underscoring just how physically small the district is relative to most of India's several hundred other districts even as it carries a disproportionately significant industrial output, a theme developed at length in Chapter 3 (Wikipedia, 2025k).

On electoral participation, a less commonly cited but nonetheless informative indicator of civic engagement, the territory recorded voter turnout of 72.52 percent in the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Lok Sabha constituency and 68.77 percent in the Daman and Diu constituency during the 2024 general election, both figures comparing favourably with the national average turnout recorded in that election and suggesting a politically engaged electorate notwithstanding the territory's non-legislature status (Wikipedia, 2025e).

In sum, the picture that emerges from this state profile chapter is of a small, geographically fragmented, and administratively distinct Union Territory that has, on several composite



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national indices, improved its relative standing markedly over the past several years, while continuing to carry forward specific, identifiable structural disparities, in gender ratio, in tribal-non-tribal socio-economic gaps, and in inter-district variation between its industrial mainland and its more isolated island district, that will require targeted attention across the sectoral chapters that follow. The remaining twenty chapters of this Framework take up these threads in turn, beginning with the territory's fiscal architecture in Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 2: FISCAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE STATE

The fiscal architecture of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu differs fundamentally from that of a full state of the Indian Union, and this distinction must be understood before any of the specific fiscal indicators discussed in this chapter can be properly interpreted. As a Union Territory without its own legislature, the territory does not present an annual state budget through an elected assembly, does not independently determine its own tax rates or borrowing programme in the manner available to a state government, and is not a direct recipient of the tax devolution formula recommended by successive Finance Commissions of India, since that devolution runs from the Union's divisible pool of taxes to the states, not to Union Territories without legislature. Instead, the territory's finances are integrated into the Union Budget itself, administered through the Ministry of Home Affairs as Demand for Grants Number 54, and funded predominantly through direct budgetary support from the Government of India, supplemented by the territory's own tax and non-tax revenue collections, most significantly Goods and Services Tax receipts (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a; Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). This chapter

examines each dimension of that fiscal architecture in turn, beginning with the territory's revenue framework and proceeding through expenditure composition, capital investment, deficit and debt considerations, Finance Commission treatment, GST performance, public financial management reform, and the broader question of Centre-Union Territory fiscal relations.

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

The revenue base of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is structured around three broad streams, own tax revenue collected within the territory, non-tax revenue from fees, licences, and departmental receipts, and, critically, direct transfers from the Union Budget that constitute the single largest source of funding for the territory's annual expenditure programme. Unlike a state government, the Union Territory administration does not levy or retain a share of central taxes through the constitutionally mandated Finance Commission devolution mechanism, which under Article 280 of the Constitution applies specifically to the distribution of the net proceeds of Union taxes between the Union and the states, not Union Territories without legislature (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a). Instead, the territory's Demand for Grants, presented annually as Demand Number 54 under the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Union Budget, functions as the primary channel through which resources reach the territory administration for both establishment expenditure and developmental spending across sectors including tribal welfare, disaster management, industries, land revenue, rural development, power, forestry, and public health (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b).

Within this framework, the territory's own tax revenue is anchored overwhelmingly by its State Goods and Services Tax collections, since the SGST component of GST accrues to the Union Territory administration in a manner functionally analogous to how it accrues to a state government under the destination-based consumption tax structure introduced nationally in July 2017. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha dated 18 August 2025, the Ministry of Finance disclosed that the Union Territory recorded total gross GST collections, encompassing both central and state components, of approximately 27,900 crore rupees cumulatively between the financial year 2017-18 and July 2025, an eight-year span capturing the full post-GST implementation period (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025). This aggregate figure, while combining central and territorial shares of GST rather than isolating the territory's own SGST revenue alone, nonetheless indicates the scale of indirect tax activity

generated by the territory's dense industrial base, a theme developed further in Section 2.7 below and in Chapter 3's discussion of the territory's manufacturing sector.

Non-tax revenue for the territory is drawn from a range of departmental sources reflected in the Demand for Grants documentation, including receipts from courts, stamps and registration, land revenue and land reforms, forestry and wildlife, and industries, though the Union Budget documentation for Demand Number 54 presents these primarily as components netted against gross budgetary allocation rather than as a standalone revenue account of the kind a state's own budget would present in a Receipts Budget (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). Given the absence of an elected legislature and the corresponding absence of a full state-style Annual Financial Statement, granular own-revenue figures disaggregated by tax head, comparable to what a state government publishes in its own budget documents, are not consistently available in the public domain for this territory, and this Framework flags that data limitation explicitly here rather than presenting an estimated figure that could not be adequately sourced.

The dominant revenue stream for the territory, in practical fiscal terms, remains the direct Union Budget allocation itself. As detailed in Section 2.2, this allocation has grown steadily across recent budget cycles, from 2,636.26 crore rupees in the 2024-25 actuals, through 2,780 crore rupees in the 2025-26 Budget Estimates, later revised to 2,740.64 crore rupees, to 2,832.70 crore rupees in the 2026-27 Budget Estimates (Deccan Herald, 2025; Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026c). This pattern of year-on-year growth in direct central funding, rather than growth in devolved tax share, is the single most important structural feature distinguishing this territory's revenue framework from that of a full state such as Keralam, and it recurs as a theme across the remaining sections of this chapter.

2.2 Expenditure Profile: Composition, Quality and Efficiency

The Union Territory's expenditure profile, as reflected in successive Union Budget Expenditure Profile documents, is organised into two principal heads, revenue expenditure and capital expenditure, consistent with the standard classification used across all government budgeting in India. According to the Expenditure Profile 2026-2027 published by the Ministry of Finance, the territory's total budgeted expenditure moved from 2,636.26 crore rupees in the 2024-25 actuals, comprising 1,632.93 crore rupees in revenue expenditure and 1,003.33 crore rupees in capital expenditure, to 2,780.00 crore rupees in the 2025-26 Budget Estimates, comprising 1,710.00 crore rupees revenue and 1,070.00 crore rupees capital,

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subsequently revised downward slightly to 2,740.64 crore rupees at the Revised Estimates stage, with 1,670.64 crore rupees revenue and 1,070.00 crore rupees capital, before rising again to 2,832.70 crore rupees in the 2026-27 Budget Estimates, split between 1,732.70 crore rupees revenue expenditure and 1,100.00 crore rupees capital expenditure (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026c).

This trajectory reveals a revenue-to-capital expenditure ratio that has remained relatively stable across the three-year window for which comparable data is available, with capital expenditure consistently accounting for approximately 38 to 39 percent of total budgeted expenditure across each of the cycles examined. This is a comparatively favourable capital-to-revenue ratio by the standards of many Indian states, where capital expenditure frequently falls below 20 percent of total outlay once committed revenue expenditure obligations, principally salaries, pensions, and interest payments, are accounted for. The territory's smaller administrative establishment, relative to the scale of a full state bureaucracy, likely contributes to this comparatively higher capital share, since the fixed costs of running a state-scale legislative and ministerial apparatus do not apply in the same form to a Union Territory administered through a compact secretariat structure headquartered in Daman (Sarkaritel.com, 2025).

Within the establishment expenditure component of the Demand for Grants, the Union Budget documentation for Demand Number 54 itemises establishment costs of the Secretariat of the Union Territory Administration alongside expenditure on courts, stamps and registration, police, jails, tribal welfare, disaster management, industries, census, survey and statistics, crop husbandry, soil and water conservation, animal husbandry, fisheries, cooperation, land revenue, land reforms, rural development, power, forestry and wildlife, scientific research, civil supplies, medical and public health, and general administration among other heads (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). A notable and territory-specific line item within this allocation is the provision for payment of share capital to the Government of Gujarat for the Daman Ganga Reservoir, reflecting the territory's inter-state dependency on jointly managed water infrastructure discussed further in Chapter 10 (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b).

On expenditure efficiency, the pattern of Revised Estimates falling below original Budget Estimates in the 2025-26 cycle, from 2,780.00 crore rupees budgeted to 2,740.64 crore rupees revised, a shortfall of approximately 1.4 percent, suggests a modest degree of underutilisation

of sanctioned funds rather than overspending, a pattern that contrasts with several central ministries, where actual utilisation has in recent years exceeded original budgeted allocation, sometimes substantially (PRS Legislative Research, 2026). This relatively contained variance between budgeted and revised expenditure is a positive, if modest, indicator of budgetary discipline and expenditure planning accuracy within the territory administration, though the absence of a published, standalone Economic Survey or Outcome Budget specific to the territory, of the kind many states now produce, limits the depth of outcome-based expenditure quality assessment that can be undertaken for this chapter.

2.3 Capital Expenditure: Infrastructure Investment and Asset Creation

Capital expenditure in the territory has shown a clear upward trajectory across recent budget cycles, rising from 1,003.33 crore rupees in the 2024-25 actuals to a projected 1,100.00 crore rupees in the 2026-27 Budget Estimates, an increase of approximately 9.6 percent over the two-year period (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026c). This growth in capital allocation is broadly consistent with the national policy emphasis, articulated repeatedly in successive Union Budgets since 2021-22, on capital expenditure as the preferred instrument for driving both immediate economic activity and longer-term infrastructure asset creation, a priority that appears to extend, at least in relative budgetary terms, to the smaller Union Territories administered directly through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

CEIC's compiled Union Budget expenditure series for the territory corroborates this trend from a different data source, recording capital expenditure allocations rising from a low point of 373.41 crore rupees, expressed in the series as 3,734.1 million rupees, in 2021, reflecting the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic period on capital works, to 1,070.0 crore rupees in 2026 and a further projected 1,100.0 crore rupees in 2027, corresponding to the fiscal years discussed above (CEIC, 2025). This pandemic-era trough followed by a sustained recovery and expansion in capital allocation mirrors the broader national pattern of capital expenditure suppression during 2020-21 and 2021-22, followed by a multi-year phase of capital expenditure-led fiscal policy at the Union level.

The specific composition of this capital expenditure, in terms of sectoral allocation across roads, power, water supply, urban infrastructure, and industrial estate development, is not fully disaggregated in the summary budget documents reviewed for this chapter, though the

Demand Number 54 documentation indicates that capital allocations flow through the same departmental heads as revenue expenditure, spanning power, forestry and wildlife infrastructure, land development, and industrial infrastructure among others (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). Chapter 8 of this Framework, covering transport and connectivity infrastructure, and Chapter 9, covering energy and power infrastructure, both draw on this capital expenditure envelope in their respective sectoral analyses, and readers seeking granular, scheme-level capital expenditure detail are directed to those chapters and to the full Demand for Grants Number 54 documentation published annually by the Ministry of Finance.

2.4 Fiscal Deficit, Primary Deficit and Debt Sustainability

The concepts of fiscal deficit, primary deficit, and debt-to-GSDP ratio, central to the fiscal analysis of any Indian state, apply only in a substantially modified form to a Union Territory without its own legislature. Because Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not present an independent Annual Financial Statement to an elected assembly, does not run its own consolidated fund in the manner of a state government under Article 266 of the Constitution, and is not permitted to raise open market borrowings on its own account in the way state governments do through State Development Loans, the standard fiscal deficit calculation, expressed as the excess of total expenditure over total non-debt receipts, does not map directly onto this territory's budget documentation in the same form it would for a state such as Kerala (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a).

Instead, the territory's expenditure is financed predominantly through direct budgetary support from the Union Government, meaning that any gap between the territory's own revenue collections and its expenditure requirements is bridged not through territory-level borrowing but through the scale of the Central grant itself, as reflected in the Demand for Grants figures discussed in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. This structural arrangement means that the territory, considered in isolation, does not carry an independent fiscal deficit or public debt stock of the kind tracked and published for states by the Reserve Bank of India's annual State Finances report and by rating agencies. GovtBudget.com's compilation of state and Union Territory fiscal data explicitly notes that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, along with Ladakh and Lakshadweep, is classified as being covered under the Union Budget rather than maintaining a separate, independently published state-style budget of the kind used to compute fiscal deficit ratios for full states (GovtBudget.com, 2025).

This does not mean the territory is free of fiscal discipline considerations. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India conducts regular compliance and financial audits of the territory's accounts, discussed further in Section 2.8, and the Ministry of Home Affairs, as the administrative ministry responsible for Demand Number 54, exercises budgetary oversight functionally equivalent to the fiscal discipline role that a state's own Finance Department and Legislative Assembly would otherwise perform. For the purposes of this Framework, the appropriate fiscal sustainability indicator for the territory is therefore not a computed fiscal deficit ratio, since no independently financed deficit in the state government sense exists, but rather the trend in the territory's own-revenue-to-total-expenditure ratio, which, given the GST collection figures discussed in Section 2.7 relative to the total budget size discussed in Section 2.2, indicates that own-source revenue, even accounting only for the state component of GST, covers a meaningful and growing share of the territory's annual budget, a positive underlying fiscal trend even in the absence of a formal deficit computation.

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

Consistent with the fiscal architecture described in Section 2.4, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not maintain an independent programme of market borrowings, State Development Loans, or government guarantees of the kind that feature prominently in the debt sustainability analysis of India's states. The absence of a legislature removes the constitutional and procedural apparatus, specifically the requirement for legislative sanction of borrowing limits under Article 293 in the case of states, through which state governments contract and service public debt, and no evidence was identified in the course of preparing this Framework of the territory maintaining a standalone, publicly disclosed debt stock, guarantee portfolio, or off-budget borrowing vehicle comparable to those operated by many state governments through public sector undertakings or special purpose vehicles.

This should not be read as implying the complete absence of contingent liabilities within the territory's fiscal system. The Comptroller and Auditor General's Report Number 37 of 2025, a Compliance Audit Report covering the Union Territories without legislature, including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, examines transactions relating to expenditure, receipts, assets, and liabilities across these territories, and such reports periodically surface individual instances of financial irregularity, delayed recovery, or contingent liability at the departmental level, even in the absence of a formal state-style public debt programme (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2026a, 2026b). The Report Number 37 of 2025 is

discussed further in Section 2.8 below in the context of public financial management and audit compliance.

Given the direct Union Budget financing model described earlier in this chapter, this Framework assesses the territory's exposure to classic sub-national debt sustainability risk, of the kind that has periodically affected several of India's larger and more fiscally stressed states, as structurally low, since the territory does not independently access capital markets and its expenditure programme is bounded by the annual Demand for Grants sanctioned by Parliament. This structural insulation from independent debt accumulation is one of the genuine fiscal advantages of the Union Territory model, though it is accompanied by the corresponding disadvantage, discussed further in Section 2.9, of reduced fiscal autonomy relative to a state government in determining the scale and composition of the territory's own development expenditure.

2.6 Finance Commission Awards: Allocation and Utilisation

As established in Section 2.1, the constitutional devolution formula recommended by successive Finance Commissions of India under Article 280 governs the distribution of the divisible pool of central taxes between the Union and the states, and does not extend, in the same direct form, to Union Territories without their own legislature. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep, therefore does not receive a Finance Commission-determined share of central tax devolution in the manner that Kerala or any other full state does (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a).

This does not mean the Finance Commission process is entirely without relevance to the territory. Successive Finance Commissions, including the Fifteenth Finance Commission, whose award period extended through the 2021-22 to 2025-26 cycle, and the Sixteenth Finance Commission, whose recommendations were under consideration for the period beginning 2026-27 at the time this Framework was prepared, have historically made specific recommendations regarding grants-in-aid and sector-specific transfers relevant to Union Territories, even where the core tax devolution formula does not apply to them directly. Local body grants, disaster management grants, and sector-specific grants recommended by the Finance Commission have, in the case of other Union Territories without legislature, been channelled through the Union Budget process rather than through a direct devolution mechanism, and this Framework proceeds on the understanding that a broadly similar

channelling arrangement applies to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, though a comprehensive, published, territory-specific breakdown of Finance Commission grant utilisation for this Union Territory was not identified during research for this chapter and would benefit from more transparent, standalone disclosure in future budget documentation, a recommendation this Framework carries forward into Chapter 21's discussion of Centre-Territory financing strategy.

For disaster management specifically, the State Disaster Response Fund and National Disaster Response Fund architecture recommended by the Finance Commission and operationalised through the Disaster Management Act, 2005, extends to Union Territories including this one, and the Demand Number 54 documentation confirms that disaster management is one of the departmental heads funded through the territory's annual Union Budget allocation (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). Chapter 14 of this Framework, on climate change and ecological security, discusses the territory's disaster risk profile and institutional preparedness mechanisms in greater depth, including the operation of this Finance Commission-linked disaster funding architecture.

2.7 GST Implementation: Revenue Impact and Compensation Status

The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax regime since July 2017 has had a substantial and, on the evidence available, broadly positive revenue impact on Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, a territory whose economy, as Chapter 3 discusses in detail, is anchored disproportionately in small and medium manufacturing activity relative to its small population and land area. According to the Ministry of Finance's written reply to the Lok Sabha on 18 August 2025, gross GST collections in the territory rose from 2,140 crore rupees in 2017-18, the first, partial year of GST implementation, to 4,410 crore rupees in 2024-25, more than doubling over that seven-year span, with a further 1,652 crore rupees collected in the period up to July 2025 within the 2025-26 financial year (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025). Cumulative gross GST collection across the full period from 2017-18 through July 2025 reached approximately 27,900 crore rupees (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025).

This upward trajectory was not uninterrupted. The Ministry of Finance's disclosure explicitly notes a dip in collections during 2020-21, consistent with the nationwide contraction in economic activity and consumption associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns, before collections resumed their upward trend in subsequent years

(Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025). The recovery and subsequent growth in collections through 2024-25 and into 2025-26 suggests that the territory's industrial and commercial base has not only recovered from the pandemic-era disruption but has expanded its GST-generating economic activity beyond pre-pandemic levels, a finding consistent with the sustained industrial investment discussed in Chapter 4 of this Framework.

On the compliance side, the number of active GST taxpayers registered in the territory grew from 8,121 at the initial rollout stage in July 2017 to 16,168 by March 2025, essentially doubling the territory's formal GST taxpayer base over an eight-year period (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025). The majority of these registered taxpayers fall under the regular, or normal, GST category rather than the simplified composition scheme designed for smaller businesses below a specified turnover threshold, a pattern consistent with the territory's concentration of formally organised small and medium manufacturing units operating at a scale that places them above the composition scheme eligibility threshold (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025).

On the specific question of GST compensation, the mechanism established under the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, to guarantee states and, by extension, Union Territories with legislature a minimum 14 percent annual revenue growth over a defined base year, this compensation mechanism formally concluded at the end of June 2022, after which the compensation cess collection was redirected toward servicing back-to-back loans extended to states during the pandemic period rather than continuing as an ongoing revenue guarantee (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a). Since Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is, in any event, a Union Territory without legislature and was therefore not a direct party to the compensation guarantee mechanism in the same manner as full states, the conclusion of that compensation period in 2022 has limited direct bearing on this territory's fiscal position, and its GST revenue growth, as demonstrated above, appears to have continued on an upward trajectory independent of the compensation mechanism's expiry.

2.8 Public Financial Management Reforms and Audit Compliance

Public financial management in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu operates under the oversight of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, whose constitutional mandate under Article 149 extends to the audit of accounts of the Union and of the states, and, by administrative arrangement, to the Union Territories without legislature. Until 2014, audit

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observations relating to these smaller Union Territories were incorporated into the Comptroller and Auditor General's broader Compliance Audit Report for the Union Government, but since that year, a dedicated, standalone Audit Report covering the Union Territories without legislature, including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, has been prepared and published separately (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2026a).

The most recent such report identified for this Framework, Report Number 37 of 2025, was published by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and covers compliance audit findings across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep, under both the General and Social Services Sector and the Revenue Sector, drawing primarily on test audit work conducted for the 2023-24 period while also incorporating matters from earlier years not previously reported and, in at least one instance, matters relating to the period subsequent to 2023-24 (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2026a, 2026b). The report structure, divided into an introductory chapter summarising the status of Action Taken Notes furnished by ministries in response to prior audit findings, followed by substantive chapters detailing specific compliance audit observations, is consistent with the format used in earlier editions of this series and reflects an established, ongoing institutional mechanism for external financial oversight of the territory's accounts (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2026a).

Beyond statutory audit, public financial management reform in the territory has been shaped by the broader national rollout of digital financial management infrastructure, including the Public Financial Management System, which enables real-time tracking of fund flows under centrally sponsored schemes through the Single Nodal Agency architecture referenced in the Union Budget's own supporting documentation on fund balances under Single Nodal Agency accounts (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026a). While this Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific Outcome Budget or Public Financial Management performance report published independently by the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu administration, comparable to the Outcome Budgets increasingly published by several major states, the territory's accounts remain subject to the same national digital expenditure tracking infrastructure applied across centrally sponsored schemes nationwide, providing a baseline level of expenditure transparency even in the absence of territory-specific outcome reporting. This Framework recommends, as a specific institutional improvement discussed further in Chapter 15, the future publication of a standalone Outcome Budget for the territory,

to strengthen the link between budgetary allocation and measurable developmental outcomes across the sectoral domains covered in the chapters that follow.

2.9 Centre-State Fiscal Relations: Trends and Themes

The overarching theme running through this entire chapter is that fiscal relations between the Union Government and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu operate through a fundamentally different channel than Centre-state fiscal relations as conventionally understood in the Indian federal system. Where a state such as Kerala engages with the Union Government through the constitutionally structured mechanisms of Finance Commission tax devolution, centrally sponsored scheme cost-sharing, and, since 2017, the cooperative federal architecture of the GST Council, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu engages with the Union Government principally as an administrative dependency of the Ministry of Home Affairs, with its entire annual budget presented, debated, and sanctioned as a single Demand for Grants within the Union Budget itself (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b).

This arrangement is administered day to day through a Chief Secretary-led administrative structure, with Amit Singla, IAS, serving in that capacity as of the period covered by this Framework, working under the Administrator, currently Praful Khoda Patel, who reports in turn to the Ministry of Home Affairs and, through it, to the Union Council of Ministers (Wikipedia, 2025n). This chain of administrative accountability, running from the territory's Chief Secretary through the Administrator to the Ministry of Home Affairs, substitutes for the elected Chief Minister and Council of Ministers structure that would otherwise be answerable to a state legislature, and it means that fiscal priority-setting for the territory is determined substantially through this administrative and ministerial channel rather than through the electoral and legislative budget process used by full states.

The practical consequence of this arrangement, as evidenced by the steady growth in the territory's Union Budget allocation documented in Sections 2.1 through 2.3, is that the territory has generally received consistent, if modest by absolute national standards, year-on-year increases in central budgetary support, insulated to a significant degree from the kind of fiscal stress episodes, forced expenditure compression, or credit rating pressures that have periodically affected several larger, more fiscally autonomous states carrying substantial market debt burdens. At the same time, this arrangement necessarily constrains the territory administration's discretion over its own development priorities relative to what an elected



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state government would enjoy, since major allocative decisions ultimately require sanction through the Union Budget process rather than through an independent territorial legislative process.

Looking ahead, and setting up the discussion carried forward into Chapter 21's treatment of financing strategy for the territory's Vision 2047 roadmap, this Framework identifies three specific themes in Centre-Union Territory fiscal relations meriting continued attention. First, the case for greater budgetary transparency specific to the territory, including standalone Outcome Budget publication, discussed in Section 2.8. Second, the question of whether the territory's now well-established administrative capacity and demonstrated GST revenue growth, discussed in Section 2.7, might over time support an expanded degree of territorial fiscal discretion within the existing Union Territory framework, short of the full legislative and borrowing autonomy reserved for states. Third, the continued importance of predictable, multi-year capital expenditure commitments from the Union Budget, given the capital-intensive infrastructure requirements discussed throughout the transport, energy, water, and urban development chapters of this Framework, Chapters 8 through 11 respectively, which depend substantially on the scale and consistency of the territory's annual central budgetary support examined in this chapter.

CHAPTER 3: ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, GROWTH AND SECTORAL PERFORMANCE

The economy of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is defined by a paradox that recurs throughout this Framework. It is among the smallest Union Territories of India by land area and population, yet it carries an economic footprint, particularly in manufacturing and export activity, that is wholly disproportionate to that size. This chapter sets out the structure of that economy across nine dimensions, beginning with output and income trends, proceeding through the territory's primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors, its informal economy, its labour market, price stability, and concluding with an assessment of the growth corridors that anchor the territory's future economic trajectory.

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

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not publish a standalone, independently compiled Gross State Domestic Product series with the same frequency, granularity, or public accessibility as major Indian states, a data limitation consistent with the territory's status as a Union Territory without legislature and one this Framework flags explicitly rather than substituting with an estimated figure that could not be adequately verified. What can be established with confidence, drawing on trade and industrial output data compiled by the India Brand Equity Foundation, is that the territory's economic output is overwhelmingly weighted toward industrial manufacturing and its associated export activity, rather than agriculture or services, a structural composition that distinguishes this Union Territory sharply from most Indian states, where services typically dominate gross output.

The clearest available proxy for the scale and trajectory of the territory's economic activity is its merchandise export performance. Total merchandise exports from the Union Territory reached 40,209 crore rupees, equivalent to approximately 4.65 billion United States dollars, in the 2024-25 financial year (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). This figure, for a territory with a population estimated at only around 700,000 to 750,000 persons as of the mid-2020s, implies an extraordinarily high export intensity per capita relative to almost any other sub-national unit in India, a reflection of the territory's dense concentration of

export-oriented plastics, textile, and chemical manufacturing discussed in Sections 3.4 and 3.9 below. Foreign Direct Investment inflows into the territory between October 2019 and March 2026 stood at 1,360.44 crore rupees, or approximately 181.29 million United States dollars, a figure that, while modest in absolute national terms compared to major industrial states such as Gujarat or Maharashtra, is again notable given the territory's small size (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a).

Growth in the territory's principal own-source tax revenue, GST collections, discussed in detail in Chapter 2, offers a further proxy for output growth, since gross GST collections in the territory more than doubled between 2017-18 and 2024-25, from 2,140 crore rupees to 4,410 crore rupees (Ministry of Finance, as cited in TaxGuru, 2025), a trend broadly consistent with sustained nominal economic expansion across the territory's industrial base over that period, notwithstanding the pandemic-related dip recorded in 2020-21. This Framework recommends, as a specific institutional priority carried forward into Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening, that the territory administration commission and publish a formal, methodologically transparent GSDP estimation series of the kind now maintained by every major Indian state, to enable more precise year-on-year tracking of the territory's economic growth rate and sectoral composition than is currently possible using proxy indicators such as exports and GST collections alone.

3.2 Per Capita Income and Purchasing Power Analysis

As with the aggregate GSDP series discussed in Section 3.1, a standalone, regularly updated per capita income figure specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, compiled on a basis directly comparable to the per capita Net State Domestic Product figures published annually for India's states, was not identified as being publicly available with sufficient recency and methodological transparency for direct citation in this Framework. This data gap is itself informative, since it reflects the territory's position outside the standard state-level national accounts reporting architecture maintained by the Central Statistics Office and state Directorates of Economics and Statistics, an architecture built primarily around states rather than Union Territories without legislature.

Indirect evidence, however, points toward a comparatively high average income and purchasing power level within the territory relative to many Indian states, driven by its concentration of formal sector industrial employment. The worker population ratio of 47.44 percent recorded for the territory (Indiagraphy, 2025), combined with the scale of its



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industrial employment base, estimated at over 131,072 persons employed across the territory's registered industries according to a strategic investment plan prepared under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance programme (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025), suggests that a substantial share of the territory's working-age population is engaged in formal, wage-earning industrial employment rather than subsistence agriculture or informal casual labour, a pattern generally associated with higher average household purchasing power than in economies more dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

At the same time, this Framework cautions against inferring uniformly high purchasing power across the territory's population from these aggregate industrial indicators alone. As Chapter 1 established, the territory's tribal population, concentrated in the rural interior of Nagar Haveli taluka, and its substantial base of migrant industrial labour, drawn disproportionately from outside the territory to staff its factories, likely experience meaningfully different income and purchasing power realities than the territory's smaller cohort of established resident households and industrial proprietors. Chapter 7 of this Framework returns to this distributional question in the specific context of Scheduled Tribe welfare and economic inclusion.

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

Although the primary sector accounts for a comparatively small and structurally declining share of the territory's overall economic output relative to its dominant secondary sector, discussed in Section 3.4, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries remain economically and socially significant, particularly for the territory's rural and tribal population in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district and for the coastal fishing communities of Daman and Diu. Rice, along with pulses and other food grains, has historically constituted the dominant cropping pattern in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's rural interior, reflecting the district's high monsoon rainfall regime described in Chapter 1, while the drier coastal tracts of Daman and Diu support a more limited range of horticultural and dryland crops (Britannica, 2025b; Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025).

Horticulture has emerged as a specific area of local agricultural activity, with the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Horticulture in Daman periodically conducting open

auction sales of horticultural produce, including chikoo, or sapodilla fruit, cultivated in the territory's coastal agricultural belt, indicating an established, if modest, commercial horticulture sector operating alongside subsistence food grain cultivation (UT Administration, 2026). The territory's Single Window System and its receipt of support under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries' flagship schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme, indicate a deliberate policy push toward strengthening value addition in fisheries, cold chain logistics, and agro-processing as complementary activities to the territory's primary agricultural base (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025).

Fisheries constitute a particularly important primary sector activity for Daman and Diu, given their coastal location along a 27-kilometre coastline with established landing centres (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). The territory's fishing communities have historically depended on both inshore and, in the case of larger mechanised vessels operating out of Daman, deep-sea fishing activity in the Arabian Sea, and the sector has drawn renewed national policy attention through India's partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, announced in September 2025, to develop Blue Port infrastructure nationally, explicitly aimed at modernising fishing harbours, integrating technology and sustainability considerations, boosting fisheries exports, and strengthening food security, a programme with direct relevance to Daman's fishing harbour infrastructure (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). Animal husbandry and dairy activity, while present across the territory's rural areas, remains a comparatively minor contributor to the primary sector relative to fisheries and horticulture, reflecting the territory's limited pastureland and its predominantly forested and industrially developed land use pattern described in Chapter 1.

3.4 Secondary Sector: Industry, Manufacturing and Mining

The secondary sector, and manufacturing in particular, is unambiguously the dominant component of the territory's economy, and it is this sector that most clearly distinguishes Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu from the great majority of India's other small Union Territories. Industrial development in the territory traces its origins to 1965, when the first industrial estate under the cooperative sector, Dan Udyog Sahakari Sangh Limited, was established in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, followed by the development of three government industrial estates at Silvassa, Masat, and Khadoli between 1972 and 1985 (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023). This early industrial estate infrastructure was



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substantially reinforced by the Government of India's 1971 declaration of the territory as an industrially backward area, which triggered a cash subsidy scheme on capital investment for registered industrial units, initially set at 10 percent and subsequently increased to 15 and then 25 percent, before the scheme's closure in September 1988, alongside sales tax holidays of up to 15 years for qualifying units (District Industries Centre, Silvassa, as cited in Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2016; UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023).

This decades-long policy of fiscal incentives, sustained and updated through subsequent territorial industrial policies including the Industrial Policy 2015 and Industrial Policy 2018, has produced one of India's most industrially dense small territories. According to the RAMP Strategic Investment Plan prepared for the territory under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, as per Goods and Services Tax Department classification, there are 4,444 registered industries in the territory, the majority of which fall within the micro and small enterprise category, collectively providing employment to over 131,072 people (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025). More broadly, formal Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform data recorded a total of 35,889 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises registered from the territory as of 28 February 2026, reflecting substantial and continuing formalisation of the territory's enterprise base under the national MSME registration architecture (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). An earlier compilation by the Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee recorded 3,175 industrial units in the territory, comprising 2,620 micro and small sector units and 590 medium and large scale units, with industry as a whole estimated to provide employment to approximately 120,000 people across Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023).

The territory's manufacturing base is heavily concentrated in a small number of sectors in which it holds a genuinely outsized national position. It is estimated that 80 percent of India's polyester and texturised cotton yarn production takes place within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, making the territory the country's dominant integrated textile and polyester manufacturing hub (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). The territory additionally accounts for approximately 28 percent of India's total plastic production, spanning applications from aerospace and household goods to medical devices, greenhouses, defence, and non-conventional energy components, and is recognised as a national leader specifically in plasticiser manufacturing

(India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). Beyond textiles and plastics, the territory's industrial base extends to basic metals, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, paper, petroleum by-products including lube oils, electrical conductors, and marble tiles (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025; UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023). Large anchor investments have continued to enter the territory in recent years, including Hindalco Industries' aluminium extrusion plant established in Silvassa, cited in the RAMP Strategic Investment Plan as a clear indicator of the territory's continued industrial growth potential (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025). Chapter 4 of this Framework examines this investment climate and the territory's industrial policy framework in substantially greater depth.

Export performance in the territory's dominant manufacturing sub-sectors further confirms the scale of this industrial base. In the 2023 financial year, plastic raw material exports from the territory were valued at 220 million United States dollars, while exports of manmade yarn, fabrics, and made-up textile products reached 602 million United States dollars in the same year, rising further to 4,869 crore rupees, or approximately 563.05 million United States dollars, in the 2025 financial year (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a). Mining activity within the territory, by contrast, remains minimal, consistent with the territory's small land area and its geology, which does not support significant mineral extraction of the kind found in larger mineral-bearing states, and this Framework accordingly does not treat mining as a materially significant sub-sector of the territory's secondary sector economy.

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

The tertiary sector in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, while smaller in relative economic weight than the territory's dominant manufacturing base, has grown steadily alongside the territory's industrialisation, driven by the trade, logistics, financial, and consumer services activity that naturally clusters around a dense industrial and urban core such as Silvassa. Wholesale and retail trade services supporting the territory's manufacturing supply chains, financial services extending credit to the territory's thousands of registered MSMEs, and real estate and construction services supporting the territory's growing urban population all constitute significant, if less individually documented, components of this tertiary sector.

Telecommunications penetration offers one measurable indicator of tertiary sector and consumer services development in the territory. As of December 2025, the territory recorded

0.98 million wireline and wireless telecommunications subscribers, a figure exceeding the territory's own estimated resident population and reflecting both high mobile telephony penetration among residents and additional subscriber connections associated with the territory's substantial migrant industrial workforce and its role as a regional commercial hub for the wider Vapi-Silvassa-Daman industrial corridor spanning the territory and neighbouring Gujarat (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

Tourism, discussed in greater sectoral depth in Chapter 19, also contributes meaningfully to the territory's tertiary sector, particularly in Daman and Diu, where Portuguese colonial heritage architecture, beaches, and, in the case of Diu, its status as a duty-free liquor purchasing destination adjacent to alcohol-restricted Gujarat, draw a substantial volume of domestic tourist traffic. The Union Territory Profile prepared under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries explicitly notes that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is not a dry Union Territory adjacent to a dry Gujarat state, a distinction that has historically supported significant cross-border retail and hospitality trade, particularly benefiting Daman's tertiary sector economy (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025). Diu's domestic airport, connecting the island to Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Bhuj, handled 66,252 passengers in the 2024 financial year, rising substantially to 127,659 passengers in the 2026 financial year, an increase of approximately 93 percent over that two-year period, indicating rapidly growing tourism and business travel demand supporting the territory's tertiary sector (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

3.6 Informal Economy: Size, Significance and Integration Challenges

Despite the territory's high degree of formal industrial and MSME registration documented in Section 3.4, a meaningful informal economy persists within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, spanning informal wage labour within registered factories, unregistered micro-enterprises operating outside the formal Udyam Registration framework, informal retail and service activity in the territory's rapidly growing urban centres, and subsistence agricultural and forest-based livelihoods among the territory's tribal population in the rural interior of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district.

The scale of formalisation achieved through the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform, with 35,889 registered MSMEs as of February 2026 (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a), represents substantial progress relative to the 4,444 industries recorded

through GST Department classification in the RAMP Strategic Investment Plan (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025), though the gap between these two figures itself suggests that a considerable number of enterprises registered on the Udyam platform, a lighter-touch national MSME registration mechanism, may not yet be fully integrated into the territory's GST and formal tax compliance architecture discussed in Chapter 2. This gap between registration under different formalisation instruments is a recognised feature of India's broader MSME landscape and is not unique to this territory, but it nonetheless represents a specific policy integration challenge for territorial planners seeking to bring the full universe of the territory's economic activity within a coherent formal statistical and regulatory framework.

Migrant industrial labour, drawn to the territory's factories from across India, particularly from states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal, represents a further dimension of the territory's informal economy, since a portion of this workforce is engaged through informal or semi-formal contract labour arrangements rather than direct, fully documented employment, a pattern common across India's industrial belts more broadly and one that has direct implications for the territory's social security and labour welfare architecture discussed further in Chapter 7. Within Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's tribal rural interior, informal, non-monetised or partially monetised livelihoods linked to forest produce collection, subsistence farming, and seasonal agricultural labour continue to coexist alongside the territory's formal industrial economy, reflecting the intra-territorial disparities identified in Chapter 1's discussion of aspirational blocks and backward region identification.

3.7 Labour Market: Employment, Unemployment and Workforce Quality

The territory's labour market is characterised by a comparatively high worker population ratio of 47.44 percent (Indiagraphy, 2025), reflecting the strong pull of formal industrial employment opportunities described in Section 3.4, where the territory's registered industries alone are estimated to employ over 131,072 people (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025), a substantial figure relative to the territory's total resident population.

A defining and somewhat unusual feature of the territory's labour market, relative to most Indian states, is its heavy reliance on inter-state migrant labour to staff its industrial base. Given the territory's small resident population, its industrial workforce of well over 100,000 persons necessarily draws substantially on labour migration from other Indian states, a dynamic reflected in the sharp decline in the territory's sex ratio between the 2001 and 2011

Censuses discussed in Chapter 1, attributed by demographic analysts to disproportionately male in-migration for factory employment (Census2011.co.in, 2025). This migrant labour dependency creates specific policy considerations around labour welfare, housing, and social security portability that this Framework addresses further in Chapter 7, particularly regarding the applicability of national schemes such as the One Nation One Ration Card portability mechanism and the e-Shram unorganised worker registration database to the territory's substantial migrant workforce.

Workforce quality and skilling infrastructure in the territory remains an area requiring continued development relative to the scale of its industrial employment base. While the territory hosts Industrial Training Institutes and benefits from national skilling missions, this Framework did not identify comprehensive, territory-specific data on formal skill certification coverage among the industrial workforce, an information gap that Chapter 17's discussion of skill development and workforce alignment addresses in the context of broader recommendations for strengthening the territory's technical and vocational education ecosystem, discussed further in Chapter 5. Labour cost and wage data compiled through the Annual Survey of Industries for the territory, covering metrics such as average daily earnings by employee category and labour cost per manday worked for the 2022-23 reference period, indicates that the territory's statistical system does maintain granular industrial labour market data through national survey instruments, even where a comprehensive territory-specific labour market outcomes report has not been separately published (Indiastat, 2025b).

3.8 Inflation, Price Stability and Consumer Welfare

Consumer price inflation specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is not separately tracked through a standalone territory-specific Consumer Price Index series of the kind published for major states by the National Statistical Office, since the territory's small size and population base place it outside the set of states and larger Union Territories for which independent CPI sub-indices are routinely compiled and published. Price movements within the territory are, in practice, closely linked to price trends in the neighbouring Gujarat and Maharashtra markets from which the territory sources a substantial share of its food grain, consumer goods, and industrial inputs, given its small land area and consequent limited capacity for self-sufficient food production, discussed in Section 3.3.

The territory's status as a non-dry Union Territory adjacent to dry Gujarat, noted in Section 3.5, creates a distinct price and consumer welfare dynamic specific to alcoholic beverages,

where the absence of prohibition supports significant retail activity catering to consumers from neighbouring Gujarat, a pattern most pronounced in Daman and Diu (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025). More broadly, consumer welfare in the territory is supported through the standard national public distribution system architecture, and the territory's strong performance on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Goal 1, No Poverty, discussed in Chapter 1, itself incorporates indicators linked to National Food Security Act coverage and beneficiary reach, suggesting comparatively effective public distribution system functioning within the territory relative to other Union Territories (AffairsCloud, 2024).

Given the absence of a dedicated territorial price monitoring mechanism, this Framework recommends, consistent with its broader recommendation in Chapter 1 regarding statistical disaggregation, that future editions of the National Statistical Office's Consumer Price Index reporting architecture consider including a specific sub-index for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, to enable more precise tracking of inflationary pressure and consumer welfare outcomes specific to the territory's unique combination of a large migrant industrial workforce, a comparatively higher-income formal sector, and a rural tribal population with distinct consumption patterns.

3.9 Growth Corridors: Engines of Economic Expansion

The territory's principal growth corridor is unambiguously the Vapi-Silvassa-Daman industrial belt, a functionally integrated cross-border industrial cluster that, while spanning the administrative boundary between Gujarat's Vapi and the territory's Dadra, Silvassa, and Daman, operates in practice as a single, highly integrated regional manufacturing economy. This corridor's location advantage, situated on the Western Railway line and within reasonable trucking distance of the ports of Mumbai and, further north, the Gujarat coast, combined with the decades of industrial policy incentives described in Section 3.4, has made it one of India's most successful examples of a compact, high-density small-scale and medium-scale manufacturing cluster (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025; UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023).

Within this broader corridor, the territory's dominant position in polyester and texturised yarn production, accounting for an estimated 80 percent of national output, and its leadership in plasticiser and broader plastics manufacturing, accounting for roughly 28 percent of national plastic production, position textiles and plastics as the territory's two principal growth engines for the period covered by this Framework (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026a; UTLBC



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Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023). Continued large-scale anchor investment, exemplified by Hindalco Industries' aluminium extrusion facility in Silvassa, suggests an emerging diversification of the territory's industrial base into basic metals and downstream metal fabrication, a trend this Framework's Chapter 4 discussion of large and anchor industries examines further (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025).

A second, smaller but strategically significant growth corridor is emerging around renewable energy in Diu district, which has been publicly recognised by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy as a national example in renewable energy deployment, a distinction reported in May 2025 and reflecting Diu's earlier achievement of meeting its daytime electricity demand entirely through solar power, a milestone this Framework's Chapter 9 discussion of renewable energy potential examines in greater technical depth (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). A third emerging growth corridor lies in fisheries and blue economy infrastructure along the Daman and Diu coastline, given the September 2025 partnership between India and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop Blue Port infrastructure nationally, a programme with direct relevance to the modernisation of Daman's fishing harbour and the broader development of the territory's marine economy (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

Taken together, these growth corridors, an established, world-scale textile and plastics manufacturing cluster in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Vapi-adjacent Daman, an emerging renewable energy leadership position in Diu, and a nascent blue economy and fisheries modernisation opportunity along the territory's coastline, define the economic trajectory that the remaining chapters of this Framework build upon, particularly Chapter 4's detailed examination of the territory's investment climate and industrial policy framework, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap for the territory's long-term economic strategy.

CHAPTER 4: INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Building on the economic structure examined in Chapter 3, this chapter turns to the specific policy architecture, institutional mechanisms, and private sector dynamics through which Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has sought to attract and retain investment. Few Indian territories of comparable size have pursued as sustained and deliberate an industrial promotion strategy over as long a period, and the chapter examines that strategy across eight dimensions, from the territory's ease of doing business architecture through its industrial policy framework, its anchor industries, its special economic zone history, its foreign direct investment record, its limited public sector footprint, its public-private partnership pipeline, and its emerging regional cooperation posture.

4.1 Investment Climate Assessment and Ease of Doing Business

The investment climate of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has been shaped, over more than five decades, by a consistent policy orientation toward positioning the territory as a low-friction, incentive-rich destination for manufacturing investment. This orientation predates the territory's 2020 merger by several decades and traces to the Government of India's 1971 declaration of the territory as an industrially backward area, a designation that unlocked a package of fiscal incentives, including cash subsidies on capital investment and sales tax and income tax holidays under Section 80IB of the Income Tax Act, that catalysed the territory's initial wave of industrialisation (Ministry of Commerce and



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Industry, 2020). This early foundation has since been reinforced and modernised through successive territorial industrial policies, most notably the Industrial Policy 2015 and the subsequent Industrial Policy 2018, the latter explicitly framed by the Union Territory Administration as an effort to establish Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as a preferred industrial and investment destination nationally, with stated priorities including employment generation, product competitiveness, value addition, export-oriented growth, and environmental conservation (National Single Window System, 2025).

A central pillar of the territory's contemporary ease of doing business architecture is its dedicated Single Window System for industrial clearances, an online platform enabling investors to obtain the various regulatory approvals required to establish and operate industrial units in the territory through a single digital interface, explicitly designed to reduce the time and administrative burden historically associated with securing clearances from multiple separate departments and agencies (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025). This Single Window System, accessible through the territory's dedicated web portal, represents a meaningful institutional simplification relative to the fragmented, department-by-department clearance processes that continue to characterise investment facilitation in several larger Indian states, and it reflects the territory administration's recognition that regulatory simplicity, rather than scale or natural resource endowment, is the territory's principal comparative advantage in attracting investment given its small land area.

The territory's connectivity and location advantages further support its investment climate. Dadra and Nagar Haveli is situated just off National Highway 8, approximately 190 kilometres from Mumbai and only 19 kilometres from Vapi, the nearest railway station on the Western Railway line, giving the territory's industrial base direct access to India's largest port and financial hub while retaining lower land and operating costs than fully urbanised Mumbai Metropolitan Region locations (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 2020). This location advantage is set to strengthen further with the proposed eight-lane Baroda-Mumbai Expressway, which will pass through Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, a project explicitly identified by the India Brand Equity Foundation as opening the territory to substantially increased investment inflows once completed (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

On startup ecosystem development specifically, an area increasingly tracked nationally through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's State Startup Ranking



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exercise, the Union Territory Administration has undertaken a range of enabling initiatives including corporate engagement programmes and entrepreneurship training aimed at boosting the territory's startup base, with particular attention to institutional support mechanisms such as a functional startup portal offering single window solutions for ecosystem stakeholders and specifically tailored incentive structures for women-led startups (Startup India, 2022). While the territory's startup ecosystem remains modest in absolute scale relative to major startup hubs such as Bengaluru or the National Capital Region, its inclusion within the national State Startup Ranking framework indicates a deliberate policy intent to diversify the territory's economic base beyond its traditional manufacturing strengths over the medium term, a theme this Framework returns to in Chapter 17's discussion of the territory's innovation and knowledge economy.

4.2 Industrial Policy Framework and MSME Development

The territory's current industrial policy architecture rests on two complementary instruments, the Industrial Policy, most recently notified and periodically renewed since 2018, and the Investment Promotion Scheme, first introduced in 2015 and subsequently extended through successive renewal cycles, with the most recent iteration, Investment Promotion Scheme 2022 to 2027, providing incentives and assistance to new industrial units as well as for the expansion, diversification, and modernisation of existing units specifically within the MSME sector and the territory's dominant textile sector, alongside dedicated support for workforce skill development within industries (National Single Window System, 2025; Government of India Official Gazette, 2022).

MSME development in the territory has been substantially reinforced through the territory's participation in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance programme, a Government of India initiative supported by World Bank financing and designed to strengthen the competitiveness of India's MSME sector at the state and Union Territory level. The territory administration signed a Letter of Undertaking with the Ministry of MSME in September 2023, formally enrolling the territory in the programme, and subsequently submitted its Strategic Investment Plan on 17 December 2024, a comprehensive diagnostic and planning document covering the territory's industrial infrastructure, export preparedness, MSME subsidy architecture, and institutional capacity (RAMP Portal, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2026). Under this programme's Reforms and Performance Committee mechanism, project proposals for the



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territory have received formal financial approval, contributing to the broader national pool of RAMP-financed state and Union Territory-level MSME strengthening investments (RAMP Portal, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2026).

The composition of the territory's MSME base, as discussed in Chapter 3, is dominated by micro and small enterprises operating principally in plastics, pharmaceuticals, paper and paper products, texturising, soda water and beverage manufacturing, rubber and plastic products, petroleum-based products, and ice block manufacturing, alongside the territory's larger anchor textile and chemical units (Startup India, 2022). The Strategic Investment Plan prepared under the RAMP programme documents the territory's subsidy allotment architecture for MSMEs in detail, alongside a comparative benchmarking exercise assessing the territory's MSME support ecosystem, including its digital portal infrastructure, against comparable states and Union Territories, providing the territory administration with an evidence base for continued MSME policy refinement over the RAMP programme's implementation horizon (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025).

4.3 Large and Anchor Industries: Sectoral Analysis

As established in Chapter 3, the territory's industrial base, while dominated numerically by micro and small enterprises, derives a substantial share of its output, employment, and export value from a smaller cohort of larger anchor industries operating principally in textiles, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and, increasingly, basic metals. Textiles and polyester yarn manufacturing represent the territory's single largest anchor sub-sector, with the territory accounting for an estimated 80 percent of India's polyester and texturised cotton yarn production, a concentration achieved through decades of accumulated investment in integrated spinning, texturising, and processing capacity across the territory's numerous private and government industrial estates (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023).

Plastics and petrochemical-linked manufacturing constitute the territory's second major anchor cluster, with the territory recognised as a national leader in plasticiser production and accounting for approximately 28 percent of India's total plastic production across applications spanning aerospace, household goods, medical devices, greenhouses, defence, and non-conventional energy components (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This plastics cluster benefits from the territory's proximity to Gujarat's petrochemical refining and



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feedstock infrastructure, allowing the territory's downstream plastics manufacturers to source raw material inputs efficiently from the neighbouring state's larger petrochemical complexes.

Among the more recent large anchor investments identified for this Framework, Hindalco Industries' aluminium extrusion plant in Silvassa stands out as a specific, named example of continued large-scale private investment entering the territory, cited explicitly in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Strategic Investment Plan as an indicator of the territory's ongoing industrial growth potential and its capacity to attract investment from major national industrial conglomerates, not solely from the small and medium enterprise segment that has historically dominated the territory's industrial landscape (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025). This investment in basic metals and downstream metal fabrication capacity suggests a gradual diversification of the territory's anchor industry base beyond its traditional textiles and plastics concentration, a trend this Framework recommends the territory administration actively monitor and encourage further, given the risks associated with excessive sectoral concentration discussed further in Section 4.8.

4.4 Special Economic Zones, Industrial Corridors and Clusters

The territory's engagement with India's Special Economic Zone framework, established nationally under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, has been more limited than its broader industrial estate infrastructure might suggest. Historical industrial planning documentation for the territory records that approval was accorded by the Government of India for the establishment of a Special Economic Zone at Velugam for the textile sector under private sector development, and a further Special Economic Zone at Kharadpada intended for information technology and gems and jewellery industry development under public sector sponsorship (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023). The Special Economic Zones India notification records for the western region list Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli among the jurisdictions falling under a common regional notification authority for SEZ establishment, indicating that the territory's SEZ framework has historically been administered in coordination with the broader western India regional SEZ architecture rather than as a wholly independent territorial programme (Special Economic Zones India, 2025).

Beyond the formal SEZ framework, the territory's dominant industrial development model has instead centred on a dense network of government and private industrial estates rather

than SEZ-specific fiscal and regulatory carve-outs. The territory hosts three government industrial estates, established at Silvassa, Masat, and Khadoli between 1972 and 1985, alongside more than 45 private industrial estates that have developed across Dadra and Nagar Haveli district since the 1980s, together constituting the physical backbone of the territory's manufacturing cluster (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2023). This industrial estate model, combined with the territory's Industrial Policy incentive architecture discussed in Section 4.2, has functioned as the territory's de facto substitute for a more extensive formal SEZ programme, delivering many of the same locational and fiscal advantages that SEZs are designed to provide, without requiring the territory to navigate the more complex national SEZ approval and compliance architecture for its full industrial base.

Looking forward, the Strategic Investment Plan prepared under the RAMP programme includes a specific benchmarking exercise assessing the territory's industrial estate infrastructure, both government and private, against comparable states, alongside forecasts of future electrical energy requirements at the territory's power station bus bar level, providing a planning basis for continued industrial estate and cluster infrastructure expansion over the coming years (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025). Chapter 8's discussion of transport and connectivity infrastructure and Chapter 9's discussion of power generation capacity both bear directly on the continued viability of this industrial estate and cluster model, since the territory's ability to sustain and expand its manufacturing base depends fundamentally on continued investment in the transport and energy infrastructure that supports it.

4.5 Foreign Direct Investment: Inflows, Sectoral Distribution and Policy

Foreign Direct Investment into Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, while modest in absolute national terms relative to India's major industrial states, has been sustained and cumulatively significant relative to the territory's small size. According to data compiled by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and reported by the India Brand Equity Foundation, cumulative FDI inflows into the territory between October 2019 and March 2026 reached 1,360.44 crore rupees, equivalent to approximately 181.29 million United States dollars (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This figure reflects investment activity spanning the territory's core manufacturing sectors, textiles, plastics, and chemicals, discussed in Section 4.3, and it indicates a level of continued international investor

confidence in the territory's manufacturing base despite the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic period that fell within this measurement window.

The territory's FDI policy framework operates within India's national FDI policy architecture, administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, meaning that the territory does not maintain a materially distinct FDI approval regime from that applicable to Indian states, beyond the specific sectoral incentives available through the territory's own Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Scheme discussed in Section 4.2. This alignment with national FDI policy provides investors with regulatory predictability, since the same automatic route and government route sectoral caps that apply nationally also govern investment into the territory, while the territory's own incentive architecture provides an additional layer of investment promotion specific to units establishing operations within its jurisdiction.

Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency operating under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, maintains a dedicated territory profile for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, highlighting the territory's sustainability initiatives spanning renewable energy, waste management, and socio-economic empowerment as part of its broader investment promotion narrative aimed at both domestic and foreign investors (Invest India, 2026). This national-level investment promotion support, operating alongside the territory's own Single Window System discussed in Section 4.1, provides foreign investors considering the territory with a dual-channel facilitation architecture, combining national investment promotion infrastructure with territory-specific clearance and incentive mechanisms.

4.6 Public Sector Undertakings: Performance and Reform Agenda

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu maintains a comparatively limited footprint of dedicated territorial public sector undertakings relative to major Indian states, consistent with the territory's small administrative scale and its historical policy emphasis on private and MSME sector-led industrial development rather than state-owned enterprise-driven growth. The territory's power sector, discussed in greater technical detail in Chapter 9, does involve a mix of central utility-managed and private company-managed generation capacity, with data for the 2026 financial year indicating that of the territory's total installed power generation capacity, 526.05 megawatts was managed by central utilities and 338.65 megawatts by private companies, reflecting a power sector structure in which the territory administration

itself does not appear to operate a large, independent, territory-owned generation utility of the kind maintained by many state governments through their own state electricity boards or successor generation companies (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

This limited direct public enterprise footprint places a correspondingly greater reform and oversight emphasis on the territory administration's regulatory and facilitative functions, discussed throughout this chapter, rather than on public sector undertaking restructuring or disinvestment of the kind that features prominently in the fiscal reform agendas of several larger Indian states carrying substantial loss-making state public sector enterprise portfolios. This Framework did not identify evidence of a significant, financially stressed territorial public sector undertaking portfolio requiring the kind of structural reform agenda addressed in comparable development frameworks prepared for larger states with extensive state-owned enterprise sectors, and this comparative absence of legacy public enterprise fiscal risk should itself be counted among the structural advantages of the territory's compact administrative model discussed throughout this Framework.

4.7 Public-Private Partnership Framework and Pipeline

Public-private partnership activity in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has historically been most visible in infrastructure and connectivity projects rather than in the territory's dominant manufacturing sector, which has instead been driven predominantly by private capital operating within the territory's incentive and regulatory framework described in Sections 4.1 and 4.2, rather than through formal partnership structures with the territory administration. Within infrastructure, the territory's transport connectivity investments, discussed further in Chapter 8, including road and bridge development, for which the Union Budget allocated Revised Estimates of 406.41 crore rupees in the 2025-26 financial year, rising to 441.78 crore rupees in the 2026-27 Budget Estimates, represent primarily direct public capital expenditure financed through the territory's Union Budget allocation discussed in Chapter 2, rather than partnership-financed infrastructure delivery (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

The territory's growing tourism sector, discussed in Chapter 19, and its emerging renewable energy and blue economy growth corridors, discussed in Chapter 3, present potential future avenues for expanded public-private partnership activity, particularly in hospitality infrastructure, port modernisation under the India-Food and Agriculture Organization Blue Ports partnership announced in September 2025, and further renewable energy capacity

development building on Diu's recognised national leadership position in solar power deployment. This Framework recommends, as a specific institutional development priority carried forward into Chapter 21's Vision 2047 roadmap, that the territory administration develop a more formalised, publicly disclosed public-private partnership project pipeline, of the kind increasingly maintained by state governments through dedicated PPP cells, to provide greater investor visibility into upcoming partnership-eligible infrastructure and service delivery opportunities within the territory, rather than relying primarily on direct budgetary capital expenditure and private sector-led manufacturing investment as the territory's two dominant investment channels.

4.8 Regional Cooperation: Shared Region and Growth

The territory's investment and industrial development trajectory cannot be fully understood in isolation from its deep functional integration with the neighbouring Gujarat industrial economy, particularly the town of Vapi, which sits immediately adjacent to the territory's Dadra enclave and functions, together with Silvassa, as a single, cross-boundary industrial labour market, supply chain, and logistics corridor, as discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the Vapi-Silvassa-Daman growth corridor. This regional economic integration, while administratively complex given that it spans a state and a Union Territory governed under different constitutional arrangements, has nonetheless functioned effectively as a shared industrial ecosystem for several decades, with firms, workers, and logistics providers routinely operating across the Gujarat-Dadra and Nagar Haveli boundary with minimal friction, a testament to the practical, ground-level cooperation that has developed between the territory administration and neighbouring Gujarat state authorities even in the absence of a formalised inter-governmental regional development compact.

This regional cooperation extends to shared infrastructure. The territory's Demand for Grants documentation, discussed in Chapter 2, specifically identifies a budgetary provision for payment of share capital to the Government of Gujarat for the Daman Ganga Reservoir, a jointly relevant water infrastructure asset given the Daman Ganga River's flow across both Gujarat and the territory (Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 2026b). Similarly, the proposed Baroda-Mumbai Expressway, discussed in Section 4.1, is explicitly planned to traverse Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli as a single, multi-jurisdictional infrastructure corridor, reflecting the extent to which the territory's future investment climate depends on continued coordinated regional infrastructure planning with its two neighbouring



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states rather than territory-specific infrastructure development alone (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

Looking ahead, this Framework identifies the deepening of formal regional cooperation mechanisms, potentially including a joint industrial corridor planning body involving the territory administration, the Government of Gujarat, and the Government of Maharashtra, as a specific strategic priority for the territory's continued investment climate development, building on the informal but highly effective regional economic integration that has characterised the Vapi-Silvassa-Daman corridor to date. Chapter 21's Vision 2047 roadmap returns to this regional cooperation theme in its discussion of inter-state cooperation mechanisms and regional development councils, treating the territory's relationship with its neighbouring states as a structural feature of its long-term development strategy rather than an incidental circumstance of its geography.

CHAPTER 5: EDUCATION — ACCESS, QUALITY AND FUTURE READINESS

Education in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu presents a picture of steady, government-driven expansion set against a backdrop of historically low baseline literacy, particularly in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's tribal rural interior, and a comparatively thin higher education and technical training infrastructure relative to the scale of the territory's industrial workforce needs. This chapter examines the territory's education system across eight dimensions, from elementary schooling through secondary transition, higher education, technical and vocational training, teacher development, digital education, inclusive schooling, and the specific reform priorities that emerge from this analysis.

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

The territory's elementary education system is administered through the Directorate of Education under the Union Territory Administration, operating a network of government, government-aided, and private recognised schools across the three districts, with school-level data compiled annually through the national Unified District Information System for Education Plus, or UDISE Plus, platform and reported at the Union Territory level through both the Ministry of Education's own reporting architecture and third-party statistical compilations such as Indiastat (Indiastat, 2025c; Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, 2026).

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Dropout rates in the territory have historically shown considerable year-on-year volatility, particularly in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district. A review of school dropout trends published in an academic study of Indian dropout patterns found that Dadra and Nagar Haveli experienced fluctuating dropout rates between 2013 and 2017, including a marked increase in 2014-15, a subsequent decline in 2015-16, and then a further increase to 27.96 percent in 2016-17, a figure identified as the highest dropout rate recorded across the western region of India during the period studied, a finding the author attributed to the Centrally Sponsored Scheme data reported for that year (Sridevi, 2018). This historical volatility improved substantially in subsequent years. Ministry of Education dropout rate data for the year 2020-21 recorded the combined Union Territory of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli at an overall primary dropout rate of 3.9 percent, comprising 4.4 percent for boys and 3.4 percent for girls, figures that, while still requiring continued policy attention, represent a substantial improvement over the 2016-17 secondary-level peak documented above and place the territory's primary dropout performance within a broadly comparable range to several other Union Territories reported in the same official dataset (Ministry of Education, as cited in Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 2022).

On learning outcomes specifically, the territory's most authoritative recent data source is the Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development survey, known as PARAKH, conducted by the Ministry of Education's National Council of Educational Research and Training through the Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 national learning assessment exercise, which tested competencies at the Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle stages, corresponding to Grades 3, 6, and 9, across language and mathematics domains (PARAKH, National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2025). The territory-specific PARAKH report for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu found generally close alignment with national average performance, with differences of only 1 percentage point in language and 2 percentage points in mathematics recorded overall relative to the national average (PARAKH, National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2025). Gender-disaggregated results from the same survey showed a notable pattern, boys in the territory performed 2 percentage points below the national average in language while girls performed at par with the national average, whereas in mathematics, boys scored 1 percentage point above the national average and girls scored 2 percentage points above the national average, indicating that girls in the territory performed comparatively strongly relative to national benchmarks across both subject domains tested (PARAKH, National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2025).

A further finding of particular relevance to territorial planners is the rural-urban learning outcome gap identified in the same PARAKH report. Students from rural schools in the territory performed above the national average, scoring 1 percentage point higher in language and 4 percentage points higher in mathematics, while students from urban schools performed below the national average, scoring 6 percentage points lower in language and 4 percentage points lower in mathematics (PARAKH, National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2025). This finding runs counter to the pattern commonly assumed in Indian education policy discourse, in which urban schools are generally expected to outperform rural counterparts, and it merits further territorial-level investigation, potentially reflecting differences in urban school composition, including higher enrolment of migrant workers' children facing language and continuity disruptions in the territory's dense industrial urban centres such as Silvassa, relative to the more stable rural school-going population in Nagar Haveli taluka's interior.

5.2 Secondary and Senior Secondary Education: Transition and Achievement

Transition from elementary to secondary and senior secondary education in the territory follows the national pattern of increasing dropout risk at higher grade levels, consistent with the broader Indian pattern in which retention rates decline progressively as students advance through the schooling pipeline. The Ministry of Education's 2020-21 dropout data, discussed in Section 5.1, recorded substantially higher dropout rates at the secondary level relative to primary and upper primary levels across nearly all Indian states and Union Territories in that dataset, a pattern of increasing attrition through the schooling pipeline that is consistent with the historical secondary-level dropout figure of 27.96 percent recorded for Dadra and Nagar Haveli in 2016-17 discussed in Section 5.1, even though that particular figure predates the more recent, improved primary-level dropout data (Sridevi, 2018; Ministry of Education, as cited in Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 2022).

The territory's secondary and senior secondary education infrastructure operates through a combination of government, government-aided, and private schools, with School Education Shagun, a national initiative of the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy, functioning as a unifying digital platform connecting the territory's own school education portals and websites with the national schooling data architecture, an initiative explicitly designed, per its name derived from the Hindi words for school and quality, to improve monitoring and quality assurance across the school education system nationally,



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including in this Union Territory (Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, 2026).

Quality assurance at the school level has been supported through national programmes such as Shaala Siddhi, a school self-evaluation and improvement initiative under which a specific number of schools in both Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were formally covered during the 2016-17 academic year, according to Indiastat's compilation of educational scheme data for the territory (Indiastat, 2025d). This Framework was unable to identify updated, more recent Shaala Siddhi coverage figures specific to the territory beyond this 2016-17 baseline, and recommends, as a specific data transparency priority, that the territory administration publish updated school quality assurance coverage statistics to enable more precise tracking of secondary school quality improvement over the period since that baseline was recorded.

5.3 Higher Education: Institutional Capacity, Gross Enrolment and Quality

Higher education infrastructure in the territory, while historically limited given its small population base, has expanded meaningfully in recent years, anchored by a small but functioning network of government arts and science colleges alongside the territory's flagship medical education institution discussed in detail in Section 5.4. The Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, bifurcated from the erstwhile combined Directorate of Education specifically to establish a dedicated administrative structure for higher and technical education matters, oversees three government Arts and Science Colleges operating across the territory's three districts, Government College Daman, affiliated with Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in Surat, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Government College at Dokomordi in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, affiliated with South Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, and Government College Diu, affiliated with Saurashtra University in Rajkot (Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, 2026).

This pattern of affiliation with neighbouring Gujarat state universities, rather than with a dedicated territorial university, reflects the territory's small scale and its practical, longstanding pattern of higher education integration with the neighbouring Gujarat higher education system, a pattern consistent with the broader regional economic integration discussed in Chapter 4's treatment of the territory's relationship with Gujarat. This arrangement provides students in the territory with access to established, larger university examination, curriculum, and degree-granting systems without requiring the territory itself to

establish and maintain an independent university infrastructure disproportionate to its population size, though it does mean that degree-level academic governance for the territory's arts and science colleges rests substantially with external, Gujarat-based university bodies rather than with a wholly autonomous territorial higher education authority.

Gross Enrolment Ratio and Net Enrolment Ratio data specific to the territory's higher education sector, tracked nationally through the All India Survey on Higher Education and compiled at the Union Territory level by sources such as Indiastat, indicate that the territory maintains its own distinct higher education enrolment reporting category within India's national higher education statistical architecture, though this Framework notes that comprehensive, disaggregated Gross Enrolment Ratio figures specific to the merged territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, as opposed to the historically separate reporting categories that existed prior to the 2020 merger, were not identified with sufficient currency and precision for direct citation in this chapter, an information gap this Framework recommends be addressed through consolidated post-merger higher education statistical reporting specific to the territory (Indiastat, 2025e). Given the territory's small population and its historically Gujarat-oriented higher education affiliation pattern, this Framework assesses the territory's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education as likely constrained relative to the national average, an assessment consistent with the broader pattern of industrially oriented small territories where a substantial share of the working-age population enters the territory's dominant manufacturing labour market directly after secondary schooling rather than pursuing higher education, a dynamic explored further in Section 5.4's discussion of technical and vocational education.

5.4 Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ecosystem

Given the territory's dominant manufacturing economy, documented extensively in Chapters 3 and 4, the strength and responsiveness of its technical and vocational education and training ecosystem carries particular economic significance, since the territory's textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing base, employing over 131,000 workers according to the RAMP Strategic Investment Plan discussed in Chapter 4, depends substantially on a steady supply of appropriately skilled technical workers (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025). The territory's Industrial Training Institute network, alongside its polytechnic institutions operating under the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, forms the core of this technical training infrastructure, complemented by the workforce skill

development component explicitly built into the territory's Investment Promotion Scheme 2022 to 2027, discussed in Chapter 4, which extends support specifically for skill development of the workforce in the territory's MSME and textile sector industries (National Single Window System, 2025).

The most significant recent expansion of the territory's technical and professional education infrastructure has been in medical education, with the establishment of the NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute, also known as Government Medical College, Silvassa, the territory's only medical college. The foundation stone for this institution was laid by the Prime Minister of India on 19 January 2019, with the first undergraduate batch commencing on 15 August 2019, and the Union Government allocating 289 crore rupees for its construction (Wikipedia, 2025o). The institute's new, dedicated 35-acre campus in Silvassa was formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 17 April 2023, having previously operated from a leased building, and the institution is affiliated with Veer Narmad South Gujarat University and recognised by the National Medical Commission, with the college attached to Shri Vinoba Bhave Civil Hospital for clinical training (Wikipedia, 2025o; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This medical college represents a transformative addition to the territory's higher technical education capacity, since prior to its establishment, the territory possessed no medical education institution of its own, meaning aspiring medical students from the territory were required to pursue medical education entirely outside its boundaries.

Beyond medical education, the territory's broader technical education infrastructure remains comparatively modest in scale relative to its industrial workforce needs, and this Framework recommends, as a specific reform priority, that the territory administration undertake a systematic skills gap assessment aligned to its dominant textile, plastics, and emerging metals manufacturing sub-sectors, discussed in Chapter 4, to ensure that Industrial Training Institute course offerings and polytechnic curricula remain closely matched to the evolving technical skill requirements of the territory's anchor industries, a recommendation carried forward into Chapter 17's discussion of skill development and workforce alignment.

5.5 Teacher Recruitment, Training and Professional Development

Teacher recruitment, deployment, and professional development in the territory operate under the Directorate of Education, with teaching and non-teaching staff data for the territory's schools compiled annually through the UDISE Plus reporting system and made available

through national statistical compilations, including detailed breakdowns of the number of schools, enrolments, and teachers by school management status for the 2024-25 academic year (Indiastat, 2025c). This granular, annually updated teacher deployment data provides a stronger evidentiary basis for territorial teacher planning than is available for several of the other education sub-domains discussed in this chapter, since UDISE Plus captures teacher counts at the individual school level across government, government-aided, and private management categories.

Professional development and quality assurance infrastructure for the territory's teaching workforce is anchored nationally through the National Council for Teacher Education, the statutory body established under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, and formally operational since 1995, which oversees standards, procedures, and processes governing teacher education institutions across India, including a specific regional committee institution list maintained for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, confirming that the territory falls within this national teacher education quality assurance framework and hosts institutions subject to its regulatory oversight (National Council for Teacher Education, 2026). This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific in-service teacher training needs assessment or professional development outcomes report published independently by the territory administration, and recommends, consistent with the broader data transparency theme running through this chapter, that such a report be developed to complement the existing UDISE Plus teacher deployment data with qualitative professional development coverage and effectiveness indicators.

5.6 Digital Education, EdTech Integration and ICT in Schools

Digital education infrastructure within the territory's schools has expanded meaningfully in recent years, as reflected in UDISE Plus-derived indicators compiled by Indiastat for the 2024-25 academic year, including the percentage of schools with functional digital libraries, the availability of computer and internet facilities, smart classroom infrastructure, and the presence of solar panels across schools disaggregated by management type, government, government-aided, and private (Indiastat, 2025c, 2025f). The availability of these granular, annually updated digital infrastructure indicators through the national UDISE Plus reporting system represents a genuine strength in the territory's education data architecture, since it allows for precise, evidence-based tracking of digital education infrastructure rollout across the territory's school network over time, in a manner that several other sub-domains of the

territory's education system, discussed elsewhere in this chapter, do not currently benefit from.

Complementing this digital infrastructure data, the School Education Shagun platform, discussed in Section 5.2, functions as a further digital integration mechanism, linking the territory's school education administrative systems with the national Department of School Education and Literacy's monitoring architecture (Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, 2026). This Framework assesses the territory's digital education integration as broadly consistent with national trends, benefiting from the same centrally coordinated digital education infrastructure rollout that has extended across most Indian states and Union Territories since the mid-2010s, including specifically documented indicators such as the presence of integrated science laboratories in secondary schools and co-curricular activity rooms, both tracked for the territory through the 2024-25 UDISE Plus dataset (Indiastat, 2025f).

5.7 Special Education: Children with Disabilities and Inclusive Schooling

Inclusive education provision for children with disabilities within the territory's school system operates within the broader national framework established under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Samagra Shiksha scheme's inclusive education component, both of which extend to all states and Union Territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific report detailing enrolment figures, resource room infrastructure, or specialised teacher deployment for children with disabilities within the territory's school system with sufficient granularity and recency for direct citation in this chapter, representing a further specific data gap this Framework flags for future institutional attention.

Given the comparatively limited scale of the territory's overall school network and its relatively small population base, discussed in Chapter 1, this Framework assesses that inclusive education infrastructure specific to children with disabilities is likely to face particular capacity constraints relative to larger states with greater absolute numbers of specialised resource personnel and infrastructure, a general pattern documented in the broader national literature on disability-inclusive education provision in smaller states and Union Territories. Chapter 7's discussion of persons with disabilities' rights, accessibility, and empowerment addresses this theme from a broader social justice perspective, complementing this chapter's specific focus on inclusive schooling within the education sector. This

Framework recommends that the territory administration conduct and publish a dedicated disability-inclusive education needs assessment, covering both Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's rural tribal areas and the territory's more urbanised Daman and Diu districts, to establish a clearer evidentiary baseline for future policy development in this specific domain.

5.8 State-Specific Educational Challenges and Reform Priorities

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, several specific educational challenges and corresponding reform priorities emerge for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. First, the territory's overall literacy rate, while improved substantially from 57.63 percent in the 2001 Census to 76.2 percent in the 2011 Census for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district specifically, and to 87.1 percent for Daman and Diu district over a comparable period, continues to trail the more educationally advanced Indian states, and the persistent gender gap in literacy documented in Chapter 1, with male literacy substantially exceeding female literacy in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, remains a specific and continuing priority for targeted educational intervention, particularly in the district's tribal rural interior (CEIC, 2025; Daman & Diu Industrial Policy Overview, as cited in Scribd, 2025).

Second, the historically volatile secondary-level dropout pattern documented in Section 5.1, even accounting for the substantial improvement evident in more recent primary-level dropout figures, suggests that continued targeted retention interventions at the secondary and senior secondary level remain warranted, particularly given the counter-intuitive urban-rural learning outcome gap identified in the 2024 PARAKH assessment discussed in Section 5.1, which found urban schools underperforming rural schools in the territory, a finding meriting further territorial-level diagnostic study rather than uncritical replication of the standard urban-advantage assumption common in broader Indian education policy discourse.

Third, the territory's technical and vocational education ecosystem, while benefiting from dedicated skill development provisions built into the territory's Investment Promotion Scheme, would benefit from a more systematic, employer-linked skills gap assessment aligned specifically to the territory's dominant textile, plastics, and emerging metals manufacturing sub-sectors, discussed in Section 5.4 and carried forward into Chapter 17's treatment of skill development and workforce alignment. Fourth, higher education capacity beyond the territory's three government arts and science colleges and its single medical college remains comparatively thin, and this Framework recommends the territory administration explore, in coordination with the Union Ministry of Education, options for



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establishing additional degree college capacity or a dedicated territorial university structure over the medium term, potentially in partnership with neighbouring Gujarat institutions given the established affiliation pattern discussed in Section 5.3, to reduce the territory's continued dependence on external university degree-granting authorities and to expand local higher education access for the territory's growing population of secondary school completers.

Finally, this chapter has identified a recurring pattern of data transparency gaps, spanning updated Shaala Siddhi coverage, disability-inclusive education statistics, and consolidated post-merger higher education enrolment figures, that collectively constrain the precision with which future editions of this Framework, and the territory administration's own internal planning processes, can track educational outcomes over time. Addressing these data gaps, consistent with the broader statistical system strengthening recommendations developed further in Chapter 20, represents a foundational, low-cost reform priority that would meaningfully improve the territory's capacity for evidence-based educational policymaking across all the specific sectoral challenges identified in this section.

CHAPTER 6: HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION

Health outcomes in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu reflect the same underlying pattern established in earlier chapters of this Framework, a territory whose comparatively strong service delivery infrastructure and institutional performance sit alongside specific, persistent demographic and nutritional challenges rooted in its unusual population composition and its dense industrial urban geography. This chapter draws substantially on the National Family Health Survey, or NFHS-5, conducted for the territory between July and November 2019 and published in December 2020, the most comprehensive and methodologically rigorous health data source available for the territory, supplemented by health infrastructure data and more recent institutional reporting, across eight sections spanning infrastructure, disease burden, maternal and child health, universal health coverage, mental health, nutrition programming, population stabilisation, and forward-looking health system strengthening.

6.1 Public Health Infrastructure: Facilities, Human Resources and Gaps

The territory's public health infrastructure is anchored by a tiered system of primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities operating under the Directorate of Medical and Health Services, structured across two administrative divisions corresponding to Dadra and Nagar Haveli district on one hand and Daman and Diu districts on the other. As of 31 March 2022, the territory's rural and urban health infrastructure comprised a network of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, and Sub-Divisional and District Hospitals, tracked in detail through the Rural Health Statistics compilation maintained by the



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Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and reported at the Union Territory level through Indiatat (Indiatat, 2025g).

The territory's flagship tertiary care institution is the NAMO Hospital, Silvassa, formerly known as Shri Vinoba Bhave Civil Hospital or Cottage Hospital, which functions as the largest specialty hospital in the territory, serving not only the resident population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district but also drawing patients from the adjoining areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra given its role as the acute referral centre for the wider Vapi-Silvassa industrial corridor discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 (Wikipedia, 2025p). The hospital is certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards programme of the Union Ministry of Health and functions as the tertiary referral centre for all public health centres throughout Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, providing virtually free-of-cost services to underprivileged sections of the population and recording an average daily outpatient department footfall of approximately 3,500 patients, translating to more than one million outpatient visits annually (Wikipedia, 2025p). This scale of outpatient activity, remarkable for a hospital serving a territory of the population size documented in Chapter 1, underscores both the facility's role as a genuinely regional referral centre extending beyond the territory's own resident population and the underlying demand pressure placed on the territory's single largest public hospital by its dense surrounding industrial and migrant labour population.

For Daman and Diu districts, the National Health Mission's Third Common Review Mission report documented a combined total of 242 hospital beds, comprising 172 beds in Daman and 70 beds in Diu, alongside an institutional delivery rate exceeding 85 percent, a strong performance indicator for maternal health service utilisation (National Health Mission, 2018). The same review found that Accredited Social Health Activists, or ASHAs, functioned as a high-performing cadre within Daman and Diu, with Auxiliary Nurse Midwives demonstrating strong operational know-how and paramedics and laboratory technicians adequately present and well trained across facilities (National Health Mission, 2018). The review nonetheless identified a specific and persistent human resource gap in specialist medical personnel, noting a shortage of specialists including obstetricians, gynaecologists, and paediatricians across the territory, with the Union Territory administration reporting difficulty recruiting specialists willing to work at the compensation levels offered locally, alongside weaker institutional capacity in financial management, management information systems, data management, and telemedicine infrastructure (National Health Mission, 2018).

Beyond the territory's flagship public facilities, a modest network of smaller government and private hospitals and Primary Health Centres serves the territory's more dispersed rural and semi-urban population, including facilities such as the PHC at Dadra and a range of private hospitals catalogued in national healthcare directories, with twelve hospitals listed for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district alone in one such compilation, spanning both government and private ownership (Medindia, 2026a, 2026b). This Framework assesses the territory's specialist human resource gap, identified explicitly in the National Health Mission's own review, as the most significant infrastructure-adjacent health system weakness documented for the territory, one meriting continued policy attention given the territory's substantial and growing population, discussed in Chapter 1, and the corresponding demand this places on tertiary and specialist care capacity.

6.2 Epidemiological Profile: Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Burden

A comprehensive, territory-specific epidemiological profile disaggregating communicable and non-communicable disease burden for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu with the same granularity available for larger states was not identified with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation this Framework notes explicitly and attributes to the same national statistical architecture gap, oriented primarily around states rather than smaller Union Territories, discussed in earlier chapters of this Framework.

What can be established from available sources is that the territory's disease burden reflects the dual epidemiological transition characteristic of much of urbanising, industrialising India, combining continued vulnerability to communicable diseases associated with dense urban migrant labour settlements, including vector-borne and water-borne illness risk linked to monsoon flooding patterns discussed in Chapter 1's treatment of the territory's high rainfall regime, alongside a rising burden of non-communicable disease associated with the territory's increasingly urbanised, industrially employed population. The National Health Systems Resource Centre's Health Dossier for the territory, prepared as part of a national series of state and Union Territory health profiles, provides a structured reference point for the territory's broader health systems context, though this Framework was unable to extract disaggregated, currently dated morbidity or mortality statistics by specific disease category from that source with sufficient precision for direct citation (National Health Systems Resource Centre, 2021).

Given this data limitation, this Framework recommends, consistent with its broader statistical strengthening theme, that the territory administration commission and publish a dedicated, regularly updated epidemiological surveillance report disaggregating both communicable and non-communicable disease incidence and prevalence specific to the territory's three districts, distinguishing where possible between the territory's dense industrial urban centres and its more rural and tribal interior, to enable more precise, evidence-based public health resource allocation than is currently possible using the fragmented data sources available at the time of this Framework's preparation.

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

The NFHS-5 survey, conducted for the territory between 27 July and 30 November 2019 by the Centre for Operations Research and Training, provides the most authoritative available data on maternal and child health outcomes for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, covering a combined sample across the territory's constituent districts, with the Diu district-specific fact sheet alone drawing on 911 households, 978 women, and 101 men (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020a, 2020b).

On institutional delivery, a key proxy indicator for maternal health service access and safety, the National Health Mission's Common Review Mission documented an institutional delivery rate exceeding 85 percent across Daman and Diu, a strong performance consistent with national policy priorities under the Janani Suraksha Yojana and broader Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health programme architecture (National Health Mission, 2018). This is corroborated by the NFHS-5 fact sheet for Diu district, which recorded that 100.0 percent of children under age 5 years had their births registered with civil authorities, a marked improvement from 99.7 percent recorded in the previous NFHS-4 round conducted in 2015-16, indicating near-universal civil registration coverage for the territory's children (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020a).

A particularly striking finding from the Diu district NFHS-5 fact sheet concerns the sex ratio of the total population, recorded at 1,332 females per 1,000 males in the 2019-20 survey round, itself a substantial increase from 1,188 females per 1,000 males recorded in NFHS-4 in 2015-16 (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020a). This figure stands in sharp contrast to the sex ratio deficit documented for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district in Chapter 1, where the 2011 Census recorded only 774 females per 1,000 males, a divergence that illustrates the extent to which the territory's three constituent districts exhibit

fundamentally different demographic profiles, with Diu's female-skewed sex ratio likely reflecting differential patterns of male out-migration for work from the smaller, less industrially intensive island district, in contrast to Dadra and Nagar Haveli's substantial male in-migration for factory employment discussed in Chapters 1 and 3. Diu district's sex ratio at birth for children born in the five years preceding the survey was recorded at 983 females per 1,000 males, an improvement from 829 in NFHS-4 and comfortably within the biologically normal range, a positive finding for that specific district (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020a).

At the broader Union Territory level, however, national syntheses of the NFHS-5 round documented that the combined territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was among a small number of states and Union Territories, alongside Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, and Goa, where the sex ratio at birth remained below 900 females per 1,000 males, a finding at variance with Diu district's own favourable figure and consistent instead with the skewed sex ratio documented for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district in Chapter 1, illustrating that the territory's combined statistics mask substantial intra-territorial variation between its constituent districts (Drishti IAS, 2025). This divergence between Diu's district-level sex ratio performance and the territory-wide sex ratio at birth statistic underscores the analytical necessity, emphasised throughout this Framework, of examining the territory's three districts separately rather than relying solely on combined territorial averages.

On child nutrition, national syntheses of the NFHS-5 round noted that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was one of only two states or Union Territories, alongside Goa, that recorded a decrease in the percentage of overweight children under five years between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, at a time when 20 of the 22 states and Union Territories covered in the Phase-I NFHS-5 release recorded an increase in childhood overweight prevalence (Internet Archive, 2025a). This is a notable and comparatively favourable finding, suggesting that the territory's child nutrition trajectory on the specific dimension of overweight prevalence moved in a healthier direction than the great majority of other states and Union Territories surveyed in the same period, even as national child nutrition indicators more broadly showed a troubling pattern of rising childhood anaemia, discussed further in Section 6.6.

6.4 Universal Health Coverage: State Health Assurance Schemes

Universal health coverage in the territory operates principally through the national Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana framework, India's flagship health assurance

scheme providing cashless secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation coverage to eligible beneficiary households, extended to Union Territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on the same basis as it applies across participating states. The territory's NAMO Hospital in Silvassa and its network of government facilities across Daman and Diu function as empanelled providers within this broader national health assurance architecture, alongside the territory's own state-specific health scheme provisions where applicable.

Given the territory's comparatively strong performance on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Goal 1, No Poverty, discussed in Chapter 1, which incorporates health-linked social protection indicators, this Framework assesses the territory's health assurance coverage architecture as functioning reasonably effectively relative to many other smaller Union Territories, though the specialist workforce gap documented in Section 6.1 represents a meaningful constraint on the practical realisation of comprehensive tertiary care coverage for beneficiaries who require specialist consultation for obstetric, gynaecological, or paediatric conditions, since coverage of a procedure under a health assurance scheme does not by itself guarantee the availability of a qualified specialist to perform it locally within the territory. This Framework recommends that the territory administration explore targeted financial or non-financial incentive packages specifically designed to attract and retain obstetric, gynaecological, and paediatric specialists, building on the National Health Mission review's own explicit identification of this gap, discussed in Section 6.1, as a priority area for corrective action.

6.5 Mental Health Services: Availability, Access and Stigma Reduction

Mental health service availability within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu operates within the broader national District Mental Health Programme architecture, extended under the National Mental Health Programme framework administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to all states and Union Territories including this one. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific report detailing the scale of mental health service infrastructure, psychiatric bed capacity, or trained mental health personnel deployment within the territory with sufficient currency and granularity for direct citation, a data gap consistent with the broader pattern of thinner, less disaggregated reporting available for smaller Union Territories relative to major states, documented throughout this chapter.

Given the territory's substantial migrant industrial workforce, documented extensively in Chapters 1 and 3, and the well-established association in the broader public health literature between labour migration, social isolation, and elevated mental health risk, this Framework assesses mental health service capacity as a likely area of unmet need within the territory, particularly for its migrant workforce population who may face additional access barriers including language differences, limited social support networks, and the stigma surrounding mental health treatment that continues to affect health-seeking behaviour across much of India. This Framework recommends the territory administration undertake a dedicated needs assessment of mental health service capacity and utilisation, disaggregated where feasible between the territory's resident and migrant worker populations, to establish a firmer evidentiary basis for future mental health system strengthening than is currently available through existing national reporting architecture.

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

Nutrition programming in the territory operates through the standard national architecture of the Integrated Child Development Services scheme, the Mid-Day Meal scheme, now subsumed under the broader PM Poshan initiative, and the Poshan Abhiyan national nutrition mission, all extended to the territory on the same basis as to India's states. As documented in Section 6.3, the territory recorded a favourable divergence from the broader national trend on childhood overweight prevalence, being one of only two states or Union Territories nationally to record a decline in this indicator between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 (Internet Archive, 2025a), a finding that may reflect the combined effect of these nutrition programmes alongside the territory's specific demographic and dietary characteristics.

At the same time, national syntheses of the NFHS-5 round documented a troubling broader pattern of rising childhood anaemia nationally, with the percentage of children suffering from anaemia rising by approximately 8 percentage points between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 across the states and Union Territories surveyed, from 59 percent to 67 percent nationally (Byju's, 2025). While a disaggregated, territory-specific anaemia prevalence figure for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was not identified with sufficient precision for direct citation in this chapter, this Framework assesses that the territory is unlikely to be immune to this broader national anaemia trend, and recommends that Poshan Abhiyan implementation within the territory place particular emphasis on iron and folic acid supplementation coverage and dietary diversity interventions targeting both the territory's tribal population in Dadra and

Nagar Haveli district's rural interior and its substantial population of migrant industrial workers' children, both groups potentially facing distinct, compounding nutritional risk factors relative to the territory's more established resident population.

The broader national NFHS-5 findings also documented some encouraging trends relevant to the territory's likely nutrition programme performance, including a national increase in the percentage of children under six months who were exclusively breastfed, rising from 55 percent in NFHS-4 to 64 percent in NFHS-5, and a modest national decline in childhood wasting, from 21 percent to 19.3 percent, even as severe wasting showed a small increase (Janata Weekly, 2025; Down to Earth, 2025). This Framework recommends that future editions of this document draw on updated, territory-specific NFHS-6 data, once available, to establish whether these broadly positive national child feeding and wasting trends have been mirrored within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu specifically.

6.7 Population Stabilisation and Family Planning

Family planning and population stabilisation programming in the territory operates within the same national Family Planning programme architecture extended across all Indian states and Union Territories, encompassing both spacing and terminal contraceptive method provision through the territory's public health facility network documented in Section 6.1. The NFHS-5 survey collected detailed family planning indicator data for the territory as part of its broader 131-indicator fact sheet methodology, covering current contraceptive use, unmet need for family planning, and total fertility rate, among other indicators (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020b).

Given the territory's demographic profile, discussed extensively in Chapter 1, characterised by substantial in-migration of working-age industrial labour rather than by high natural population growth driven by elevated fertility, this Framework assesses that population stabilisation policy within the territory should be understood as operating in a fundamentally different demographic context than in high-fertility states, where family planning programming remains oriented primarily around reducing total fertility rate. In the territory's case, population growth is driven substantially by labour migration rather than natural increase, a dynamic that has different implications for health system capacity planning, discussed in Section 6.1, than for family planning programme design specifically, since the territory's population growth pressure manifests primarily as demand for general health, maternal, and child health services associated with an in-migrating working-age and

reproductive-age population, rather than as a function of locally elevated fertility rates requiring intensified family planning intervention.

6.8 Health System Strengthening and Future Preparedness

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, several specific health system strengthening priorities emerge for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu going forward. First, and most clearly evidenced by the National Health Mission's own review documentation discussed in Section 6.1, the persistent shortage of specialist medical personnel, particularly in obstetrics and gynaecology and paediatrics, represents the single most clearly identified and officially documented health system gap for the territory, and addressing it through targeted recruitment incentives should be treated as an immediate priority rather than a longer-term aspiration, given its direct bearing on the practical realisation of the strong institutional delivery rates and universal health coverage architecture otherwise documented in this chapter.

Second, the marked divergence in demographic and health indicators between Diu district and Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, evident throughout Section 6.3's discussion of sex ratio outcomes, underscores the continued need for district-disaggregated health planning and reporting, rather than reliance on combined territorial averages that can obscure genuinely distinct underlying district-level realities, a theme this Framework has raised repeatedly across preceding chapters and reiterates here specifically in the health domain. Third, the data gaps identified in Sections 6.2 and 6.5, concerning disaggregated epidemiological surveillance and mental health service capacity respectively, represent specific, addressable priorities for improved territorial health information system development, building on the strong foundational data infrastructure already established through the territory's participation in the national NFHS and Rural Health Statistics reporting architecture.

Finally, given the territory's dense industrial urban geography and its substantial migrant workforce population, discussed throughout this Framework, future health system planning for the territory should give particular weight to occupational health considerations linked to its dominant textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing base, discussed in Chapter 3, an occupational health dimension not extensively covered in the general population health data sources reviewed for this chapter but one that merits dedicated attention given the scale of the territory's industrial workforce, documented at over 131,000 persons in Chapter 3, and the well-established occupational health risks associated with the specific manufacturing



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sub-sectors, including plastics and chemical processing, in which the territory specialises. Chapter 16's discussion of emerging technologies in governance, and Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening, both offer complementary institutional pathways through which the specific health data and service delivery gaps identified throughout this chapter might be addressed over the period covered by this Framework's Vision 2047 planning horizon, discussed in Chapter 21.

CHAPTER 7: SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY WELFARE

Social justice and community welfare in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are shaped decisively by the territory's demographic particularity, established in Chapter 1 and explored further in Chapter 6, namely a small resident population containing an unusually large Scheduled Tribe share concentrated in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, layered against a substantial, continuously growing migrant industrial workforce drawn from across India. This chapter examines the territory's social justice and welfare architecture across nine domains, beginning with Scheduled Castes and proceeding through Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, gender equity, child rights, elderly welfare, disability rights, minority welfare, and the broader social security and beneficiary-linked welfare architecture that binds these domains together.

7.1 Scheduled Castes: Demographic Profile, Deprivation and Development Programmes

The Scheduled Caste population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is proportionally small relative to the territory's substantial Scheduled Tribe population, discussed in detail in Section 7.2, a demographic composition that distinguishes this territory from many Indian states where Scheduled Castes constitute the single largest historically disadvantaged group. Comprehensive, disaggregated Census 2011 data on the Scheduled Caste population specific to the merged territory, broken down by district and by specific

sub-caste, was not identified with sufficient granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner statistical reporting available for this small Union Territory relative to major states, documented throughout this Framework.

Welfare provisioning for the territory's Scheduled Caste population is administered through the Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited, a territorial nodal agency formally appointed as the State Implementing Agency for multiple central welfare schemes targeting these communities (TRIFED, 2021). This corporation functions as the institutional backbone through which national schemes for Scheduled Caste welfare, spanning post-matric scholarships, credit-linked livelihood support, and housing assistance, are channelled to eligible beneficiaries within the territory, operating on a basis broadly consistent with the equivalent Scheduled Caste development corporations maintained by India's state governments.

Given the comparatively small Scheduled Caste population base in the territory relative to its Scheduled Tribe population, this Framework assesses that Scheduled Caste-specific development programming within the territory likely operates at a correspondingly smaller absolute scale than tribal welfare programming, discussed in Section 7.2, though the underlying architecture of national scheme entitlement, including reservation in public employment and educational institutions under Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, applies equally to Scheduled Caste beneficiaries within the territory as it does across India. This Framework recommends, consistent with its recurring data transparency theme, that the territory administration publish disaggregated Scheduled Caste population and welfare scheme utilisation data specific to the merged territory, to enable more precise monitoring of this community's development outcomes than is currently possible using the combined, non-disaggregated data sources reviewed for this chapter.

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

The Scheduled Tribe population constitutes the single most demographically and culturally significant social justice constituency in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and it is here that this chapter's analysis is most richly evidenced. As established in Chapter 1, approximately four-fifths of the population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district was recorded

as belonging to Scheduled Tribes in Britannica's assessment, the most numerous of which are the Varli, Dhodia, and Konkan, or Kokna, communities (Britannica, 2025a). A more granular breakdown, drawn from a comprehensive academic assessment of the territory's tribal communities, indicates that within the Scheduled Tribe population of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the Warli, or Varli, community is by far the largest, constituting approximately 62.94 percent of the entire Scheduled Tribe population, followed by the Dhodia at approximately 16.90 percent and the Kokna at approximately 16.85 percent, with the Koli, Kathodi, Naika, and Dubla communities collectively accounting for the remaining 3.31 percent (as cited in SlideShare, 2026). This tribe-wise breakdown further indicates a distinct geographic concentration pattern, with the Warli community concentrated in central Dadra and Nagar Haveli along the territory's river valleys and speaking a Marathi-influenced dialect, the Dhodia concentrated in the northern part of the district near the Gujarat border and speaking a Gujarati-influenced dialect, and the Kokna concentrated in the southern part of the district near the Maharashtra border, speaking their own distinct Konkani-related dialect, alongside smaller communities including the Koli, Kathodi, Naika, and Dubla, or Halpati, communities, and a small Siddi community of African descent also present in the region (as cited in SlideShare, 2026; Vajiram and Ravi, 2026).

The forest-dependent character of much of this tribal population is well documented. The Forest Survey of India's India State of Forest Report 2019 volume for Dadra and Nagar Haveli explicitly records that the tribal population of the Union Territory mainly depends on forests for their requirements of fuel wood, fodder, small timber, and livelihood, identifying the Recorded Forest Area of the territory at 204 square kilometres, of which 199 square kilometres is Reserved Forest and 5 square kilometres is Protected Forest, classified under the Champion and Seth Forest Type classification system into Tropical Moist Deciduous and Tropical Dry Deciduous forest categories (Forest Survey of India, 2019). This close, continuing forest dependency of the territory's tribal population gives particular significance to the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers, Recognition of Forest Rights, Act, 2006, the national legislation providing for the recognition of individual and community forest rights for tribal and other traditional forest-dwelling communities residing in forest areas.

A particularly important and academically well-documented finding concerns the demographic trajectory of this tribal population relative to the territory's overall population growth. A comprehensive assessment of the territory's tribal communities concludes

explicitly that the sharp decline in the territory's tribal population share over recent decades, discussed in the context of sex ratio changes in Chapter 1, is not attributable to falling tribal fertility or out-migration of tribal people, but is instead overwhelmingly attributable to the in-migration of non-tribal industrial workers and their dependents, with the Union Territory's population growth rate of 55.5 percent between 2001 and 2011, discussed in Chapter 1, identified as the highest of any state or Union Territory in India, a figure the study identifies as capturing the extraordinary scale of this demographic transformation (as cited in SlideShare, 2026). This finding is analytically important because it reframes the territory's declining tribal population proportion not as a story of tribal community decline in absolute terms, but as a story of the territory's tribal population being demographically diluted by a much larger, externally sourced wave of industrial labour migration, a distinction with direct implications for how policymakers should interpret and respond to the territory's shifting population composition.

Institutionally, tribal welfare in the territory is supported through both the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation discussed in Section 7.1, and through a specific, formally documented partnership with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, or TRIFED, operating under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs. On 5 March 2021, TRIFED entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu for the implementation of the Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain for Minor Forest Produce Scheme, alongside the Van Dhan Yojana, a scheme designed to promote value addition of minor forest produce collected by tribal forest gatherers, with the territory's Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited formally appointed as the State Implementing Agency for this partnership (TRIFED, 2021). This MSP for MFP and Van Dhan Yojana partnership represents a concrete, verifiable institutional mechanism through which the territory's forest-dependent tribal population, discussed above, can capture greater value from minor forest produce collection, directly complementing the forest rights recognition process under the 2006 Forest Rights Act and providing a livelihood diversification pathway that does not require tribal community members to migrate toward the territory's dominant industrial wage labour economy discussed in Chapter 3.

Politically, the tribal concentration in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district is directly reflected in the territory's electoral architecture, discussed in Chapter 1, with the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Lok Sabha constituency reserved exclusively for Scheduled Tribe candidates given the district's predominant tribal demographics, a constituency that as of the 2024 general election had approximately 283,000 electors and recorded high voter turnout reflective of its compact, rural-tribal character dominated by communities including the Warli and Kokna (as cited in Grokipedia, 2026a). This reservation ensures a guaranteed institutional channel of tribal political representation at the national level, even in the absence of the territory's own elected legislature, discussed in Chapters 1 and 2.

7.3 Other Backward Classes: Identification, Reservation and Social Mobility

Other Backward Classes welfare and reservation policy in the territory operates under the same Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited discussed in Sections 7.1 and 7.2, which functions as a unified nodal institution spanning all three historically disadvantaged social categories alongside minority welfare, a consolidated institutional model reflecting the territory's small administrative scale relative to states, which more typically maintain separate, dedicated corporations for each distinct social category. This consolidated approach carries both efficiency advantages, in terms of reduced administrative overhead for a small territory, and potential risks of any single category's specific needs being under-prioritised relative to a larger, more numerically dominant category, most likely Scheduled Tribes given their substantial demographic weight in the territory documented in Section 7.2.

Comprehensive, disaggregated data on the specific Other Backward Classes population, its sub-caste composition, and reservation implementation outcomes in public employment and educational admission within the territory was not identified with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, representing a further specific data gap consistent with the pattern established throughout this Framework. This Framework recommends that the territory administration publish periodic reservation implementation compliance reports, disaggregated by Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Classes categories, covering both public employment recruitment outcomes and educational institution admission outcomes across the territory's government arts and science colleges and its NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute, discussed in Chapter 5, to

strengthen transparency and accountability in the implementation of the territory's reservation policy architecture.

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

Gender equity in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu presents a genuinely mixed picture, as this Framework has documented at several points in earlier chapters. On demographic composition, Chapter 1 established the concerning decline in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's sex ratio from 812 to 774 females per 1,000 males between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, attributed by demographic researchers to disproportionately male industrial labour in-migration, a finding corroborated in Section 7.2's discussion of tribal demographic dilution, which similarly attributes the territory's shifting population composition to the scale of external, predominantly male-skewed industrial labour migration rather than to any adverse change within the territory's existing resident population (Census2011.co.in, 2025; as cited in SlideShare, 2026). By contrast, Chapter 6 documented that Diu district specifically recorded a markedly female-skewed sex ratio of 1,332 females per 1,000 males in the NFHS-5 survey round, illustrating the sharp intra-territorial divergence in gender demographic patterns across the territory's three constituent districts that this Framework has emphasised repeatedly (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2020a).

On education, Chapter 5 documented a persistent gender gap in literacy in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, with male literacy at 85.17 percent substantially exceeding female literacy at 64.32 percent as of the 2011 Census, even as the more recent 2024 PARAKH learning assessment found that girls in the territory's schools performed at or above national average benchmarks in both language and mathematics, in some cases outperforming boys, indicating that the gender gap in the territory is concentrated more in historical literacy attainment and, by implication, in adult female educational access, rather than in the current learning outcomes of girls presently enrolled in the territory's schools (Census2011.co.in, 2025; PARAKH, National Council of Educational Research and Training, 2025). This distinction is analytically significant, since it suggests that current school-going girls in the territory are not experiencing a systematic gender-based learning disadvantage, even though the adult female population continues to carry forward a substantial historical literacy deficit that will require continued adult literacy and lifelong learning intervention to fully close.

On economic participation, the territory's overall worker population ratio of 47.44 percent, discussed in Chapter 3, was not identified in gender-disaggregated form with sufficient precision for direct citation in this chapter, though the well-documented, industrially driven male in-migration pattern discussed above suggests that female labour force participation within the territory's dominant manufacturing sector is likely lower than male participation, a pattern broadly consistent with national trends in India's organised manufacturing sector more generally. The territory's Investment Promotion Scheme 2022 to 2027, discussed in Chapter 4, specifically references tailored incentive structures for women-led startups as part of the territory's broader startup ecosystem development effort, indicating at least some deliberate policy attention to women's economic participation beyond the industrial wage labour sector (Startup India, 2022).

On governance participation, the territory's panchayat and municipal council system, discussed in Chapter 1, operates under the same constitutionally mandated one-third reservation for women in local self-government bodies that applies nationally under the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, ensuring a guaranteed institutional channel for women's political participation at the grassroots level even in the absence of the territory's own elected legislature. This Framework recommends that the territory administration publish disaggregated data on women's actual participation and leadership roles within panchayat and municipal council bodies, beyond the minimum constitutional reservation floor, to assess the extent to which formal political inclusion is translating into substantive decision-making influence for women within the territory's local governance institutions.

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

Child protection in the territory operates under the national Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, commonly known as POCSO, administered through the territory's judicial system under the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court, discussed in Chapter 1, alongside the broader Juvenile Justice, Care and Protection of Children, Act, 2015, and the Integrated Child Protection Scheme architecture extended nationally to all states and Union Territories including this one.

Child labour risk within the territory carries particular significance given its dominant small and medium industrial manufacturing base, documented extensively in Chapter 3, since the

informal economy component of that manufacturing sector, discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of informal economy integration challenges, creates at least a theoretical exposure risk for child labour within unregistered or informally operating micro-enterprises, even though the Child Labour, Prohibition and Regulation, Act, 1986, as amended in 2016, prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years across all occupations and processes nationally, including within the territory. This Framework did not identify territory-specific child labour incidence or enforcement data with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter, and recommends, given the scale of informal economic activity documented in Chapter 3, that the territory administration strengthen labour inspection and enforcement capacity specifically targeting its informal micro-enterprise sector to ensure continued compliance with national child labour prohibition standards.

On child nutrition, Chapter 6 documented the territory's favourable divergence from national trends on childhood overweight prevalence, alongside the likely, though not directly confirmed, exposure of the territory's children to the broader national trend of rising childhood anaemia documented in the NFHS-5 survey round. This Framework's Chapter 6 recommendation regarding intensified Poshan Abhiyan implementation targeting both tribal children in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's rural interior and migrant workers' children in the territory's industrial urban centres applies with equal force to this chapter's broader child rights and development framework, since nutritional adequacy is itself a foundational component of comprehensive child rights realisation.

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

Elderly welfare in the territory operates through the national Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, extended under the broader National Social Assistance Programme architecture to all eligible below-poverty-line elderly beneficiaries across India, including within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside the territory's presumed participation in the more recently expanded Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana pension architecture and the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly, extended nationally under the broader National Health Mission framework discussed in Chapter 6.

Given the territory's demographic profile, discussed extensively in Chapter 1 and reiterated in this chapter, characterised by a working-age population substantially expanded through industrial labour in-migration, this Framework assesses that the territory's elderly population, both its established resident elderly and any elderly dependents accompanying migrant

worker households, likely represents a demographically smaller and comparatively under-documented welfare constituency relative to the territory's dominant working-age population, a pattern this Framework flags for continued monitoring given India's broader national demographic transition toward population ageing over the coming decades. Comprehensive, territory-specific data on elderly care infrastructure, including old age homes, day care centres, and elderly-specific healthcare service utilisation within the territory, was not identified with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter, representing a further specific data gap this Framework recommends the territory administration address through dedicated elderly welfare needs assessment and reporting.

7.7 Persons with Disabilities: Rights, Accessibility and Empowerment

Disability rights and empowerment in the territory operate under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the comprehensive national legislation that replaced the earlier Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995 and significantly expanded both the categories of recognised disability and the scope of entitlements, including reservation in public employment and educational institutions, accessibility standards for public infrastructure, and the establishment of State and, by extension, Union Territory Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities to oversee implementation and grievance redressal.

As Chapter 5 established in the specific context of inclusive schooling, this Framework was unable to identify comprehensive, territory-specific data on disability prevalence, accessibility infrastructure compliance, or disability-specific welfare scheme utilisation within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation, a data gap that extends beyond the education sector specifically discussed in Chapter 5 to the broader domain of disability rights and empowerment addressed in this section. Given the territory's substantial industrial workforce, documented in Chapter 3, and the occupational health and injury risks associated with manufacturing employment discussed in Chapter 6's concluding health system strengthening recommendations, this Framework further recommends that the territory administration examine the specific intersection between industrial workplace injury, resulting disability, and the availability of appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration support for affected workers within the territory's health and social welfare systems, an intersection with particular relevance given the scale of the territory's plastics, chemical, and textile manufacturing base discussed in Chapter 3.

7.8 Minority Communities: Development, Representation and Welfare

Minority community welfare in the territory, encompassing the Muslim and Christian religious minorities documented in Chapter 1's discussion of the territory's religious composition, alongside smaller Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi communities where present, is administered through the same Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited discussed throughout this chapter, reflecting the territory's consolidated, single-institution approach to social category welfare administration.

As established in Chapter 1, the territory's Christian minority population, estimated at between 1.3 and 1.5 percent of the total population as of the 2011 Census, carries particular historical and cultural significance given the territory's Portuguese colonial heritage, discussed extensively in Chapter 1's treatment of Daman and Diu's colonial architecture and cultural landscape, with churches and Christian religious institutions forming an integral part of the territory's heritage landscape, discussed further in Chapter 19's treatment of cultural heritage preservation. The territory's Muslim minority population, estimated at between 3.8 and 5.5 percent of the total population, represents the territory's largest minority religious community, and this Framework did not identify comprehensive, territory-specific data on Muslim community socio-economic indicators, educational attainment, or welfare scheme utilisation with sufficient granularity for direct citation, consistent with the broader pattern of thin disaggregated social data availability for this small Union Territory documented throughout this chapter.

7.9 Social Security and Beneficiary-Linked Welfare Architecture

Drawing together the domain-specific findings of this chapter, the territory's overall social security and beneficiary-linked welfare architecture rests on a comparatively compact institutional foundation relative to major states, anchored by the single, multi-category Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities Financial and Development Corporation Limited discussed throughout this chapter, complemented by the territory's participation in the full suite of national social security schemes, including the National Social Assistance Programme, the National Food Security Act architecture discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of consumer welfare, the Ayushman Bharat health



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assurance scheme discussed in Chapter 6, and sector-specific schemes such as the TRIFED Van Dhan Yojana partnership discussed in Section 7.2.

This Framework's assessment, drawn together across the nine sections of this chapter, is that the territory's strongest and most clearly evidenced social justice programming lies in tribal welfare, discussed in Section 7.2, benefiting from both the demographic salience of the territory's Scheduled Tribe population and the specific, verifiable institutional partnerships, including the TRIFED Memorandum of Understanding, that have been established to support this community. By contrast, the chapter has identified recurring data and, by inference, likely programming gaps across Scheduled Caste welfare, Other Backward Classes reservation implementation monitoring, elderly care infrastructure, and disability rights accessibility compliance, domains where this Framework recommends the territory administration prioritise both improved data disclosure and, where warranted by that improved data, corresponding programme strengthening.

The territory's small population and administrative scale, discussed throughout this Framework, offer a genuine comparative advantage for social welfare delivery precision, since a compact beneficiary population is, in principle, more feasible to comprehensively enumerate, track, and serve than the vastly larger beneficiary populations of India's major states. This Framework recommends that the territory administration leverage this scale advantage by developing an integrated, cross-category social welfare beneficiary database, linking Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, minority, elderly, disability, and child welfare beneficiary records within a single, territory-wide social protection information system, an ambition realistically achievable at the territory's population scale in a manner that would be substantially more complex to implement across a major state's much larger beneficiary population. Chapter 16's discussion of digital public infrastructure and Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening both provide complementary institutional pathways through which this integrated social welfare data architecture recommendation might be operationalised over the period covered by this Framework's Vision 2047 planning horizon, discussed in Chapter 21.



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CHAPTER 8: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport connectivity in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu is shaped fundamentally by the territory's non-contiguous geography, established in Chapter 1, which scatters the territory across three physically separated segments spanning a road distance of 657 kilometres between Daman and Diu alone (Maps of India, 2020). This chapter examines the territory's transport and connectivity architecture across six domains, spanning road networks, railways, aviation, ports and waterways, urban mass transit, and multimodal logistics, with particular attention to the structural constraint of non-contiguity that runs through each of these domains.

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

Road transport is unambiguously the dominant mode of connectivity for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, both for inter-district travel within the territory and for the territory's extensive integration with the neighbouring Gujarat and Maharashtra road networks discussed throughout this Framework. The territory is served by three National Highways, each covering a different constituent district given the territory's fragmented geography. National Highway 251 traverses the island of Diu, National Highway 848A traverses the enclave of Nagar Haveli, and National Highway 848B terminates at the city of Daman (Wikivoyage, 2026). National Highway 848A, an auxiliary route of National Highway 48 spanning 43 kilometres, runs specifically from Vapi through Dadra, Piparia, and Silvassa before continuing through Ultanfalia, Bhurkudfalia, Khadol, Surangi, Velugam, and Sutrakar to Talasari, crossing the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra as well as the territory itself, a routing that concretely illustrates the cross-jurisdictional character of the territory's principal road corridor (Wikipedia, 2025q).

Internal road length data compiled by Invest India provides the clearest available quantification of the territory's road network scale by district. Dadra and Nagar Haveli district maintains 866 kilometres of internal road length, by far the largest network among the territory's three districts, reflecting both its larger land area, established in Chapter 1, and its dense industrial estate infrastructure, discussed in Chapter 4, which requires extensive internal road connectivity to link the territory's numerous government and private industrial estates to the National Highway network. Daman district maintains 190 kilometres of internal road length, with the nearest highway access via National Highway 848A and National Highway 48, while Diu district maintains 61 kilometres of internal road length, connected via National Highway 251 and National Highway 51 (Invest India, 2026).

The territory's location relative to India's broader national highway grid provides a significant connectivity advantage despite its small size. Dadra and Nagar Haveli almost touches the stretch of National Highway 8 running between Mumbai and Delhi, with Silvassa situated approximately 18 kilometres from Vapi and 14 kilometres from Bhilad, and connected by road to Mumbai at a distance of 180 kilometres, to Surat at 140 kilometres, to Nashik at 140 kilometres, and to Daman at 30 kilometres (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2026). For Daman specifically, the National Highway 8 corridor between Ahmedabad and Bombay bypasses the town at a distance of approximately 7 kilometres, with the district's

total surfaced road length recorded at 191 kilometres in the territory's own bankers' committee infrastructure profile, a figure broadly consistent with the 190 kilometre internal road length reported by Invest India (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). Diu, geographically the most remote of the territory's three districts from the mainland industrial core, is nonetheless well connected by road to major Gujarat cities, with road distances of 595 kilometres to Vadodara, 768 kilometres to Daman, 370 kilometres to Ahmedabad, and 950 kilometres to Mumbai, and is additionally served by Gujarat State Highway 33 connecting the island to the mainland (Diu District Administration, 2026; HECT India, 2026).

Looking forward, the single most significant planned road infrastructure project affecting the territory is the proposed eight-lane Baroda-Mumbai Expressway, which will pass through the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli, a project this Framework's Chapter 4 discussion of investment climate identifies as poised to substantially improve the territory's connectivity and, correspondingly, its attractiveness to further industrial investment once completed (Invest India, 2026). This Framework notes that the absence of toll roads within the immediate boundaries of Daman and Diu, confirmed by toll infrastructure tracking services, provides a modest additional cost advantage for local road users, even as FASTag remains required for travel on National Highways through neighbouring Gujarat and Maharashtra en route to and from the territory (TollGuru, 2025).

8.2 Railways: Existing Network, Pending Projects and Expansion Proposals

The territory's railway connectivity represents its single most significant transport infrastructure gap, and this deficiency is documented consistently and unambiguously across every source reviewed for this chapter. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not possess a railway station of its own anywhere within its territorial boundaries, across any of its three constituent districts, a fact confirmed by multiple independent travel and infrastructure references (Wikivoyage, 2026; The World Countries, 2026). Residents and businesses in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman districts instead rely on Vapi railway station, situated in neighbouring Gujarat on the Western Railway line, approximately 12 kilometres from Daman and roughly 10 to 18 kilometres from Silvassa depending on the specific route taken (Invest India, 2026; UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). Vapi station benefits from scheduled stoppages of long-distance trains on the Bombay-Gandhidham and Bombay-Delhi routes, providing the territory's Dadra and Nagar

Haveli and Daman districts with indirect but functional access to India's broader national rail network (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020).

For Diu district, rail access is considerably more attenuated given the island district's greater geographic remoteness from the mainland rail network. The nearest railway junction to Diu is Veraval, situated approximately 90 kilometres away, itself a major city with onward transportation options to Diu, while a narrower meter gauge rail line terminates at Delwada, just 8 kilometres from Diu, with two daily trains connecting Junagadh and Veraval to Delwada railway station (Diu District Administration, 2026). Veraval station itself offers broader national connectivity, with major cities including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Dwarka, and Thiruvananthapuram directly connected to Veraval, giving Diu district indirect access to a wide national rail network despite lacking any rail infrastructure within its own boundaries (Diu District Administration, 2026).

A specific and directly relevant future rail development identified for this Framework concerns the corridor of a proposed high-speed rail line, which Invest India's territory investment profile confirms will pass through Naroli town in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, with a station at Vapi located approximately 10 kilometres from both Daman and Silvassa, a project explicitly described as providing necessary speed and movement to goods, trade, and people for the territory (Invest India, 2026). This proposed high-speed rail corridor, evidently corresponding to the broader Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor given its Vapi-Naroli routing, represents the most significant potential future improvement to the territory's currently absent direct rail connectivity, and this Framework recommends the territory administration continue to actively engage with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Railways to ensure the territory's specific connectivity needs, including the long-standing absence of any station within the territory's own boundaries, are addressed as this project progresses toward completion.

8.3 Aviation: Airport Infrastructure and Air Connectivity

Aviation represents an area of comparatively stronger and more rapidly improving connectivity for the territory relative to its persistent rail infrastructure gap documented in Section 8.2. The territory possesses two airports, Daman Airport and Diu Airport, one within each of these two coastal districts, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, the territory's largest and most industrially significant constituent part, does not possess its own airport and instead relies on connectivity through Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International

Airport, situated approximately 170 to 180 kilometres away, or through Surat Airport in neighbouring Gujarat (Maps of India, 2020; Club Mahindra, 2026).

Daman Airport, historically served by Vayudoot and Damania Airways operating flights between Bombay and Bhavnagar via Daman, saw those commercial air services suspended, after which the airport was converted for use by the Indian Coast Guard's air enforcement operations, reflecting the airport's transition from limited civilian commercial service toward a predominantly government and security-oriented function (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). More recent tourism-oriented sources indicate Daman Airport continues to offer some daily domestic flights to Mumbai and Baroda, though this Framework notes the airport's primary characterisation across the sources reviewed remains that of a predominantly military and coast guard installation with limited civilian commercial service relative to Diu Airport (Club Mahindra, 2026).

Diu Airport, by contrast, has emerged as the territory's clearly dominant and rapidly growing civil aviation asset. Operated by the Airports Authority of India and originally opened in 1954, Diu Airport serves not only Diu itself but also the neighbouring Gujarat areas of Veraval and Jafrabad, and functions as the only airport in the Union Territory with substantial commercial scheduled service (Wikipedia, 2025r). Official Airports Authority of India statistics for the period April 2024 to March 2025 recorded 104,218 passengers handled at Diu Airport, representing a substantial year-on-year increase of 57.3 percent, alongside 2,580 aircraft movements, itself an increase of 38.6 percent over the preceding year (Wikipedia, 2025r). This passenger growth figure is consistent with, and provides an independently sourced corroboration of, the passenger growth trend identified in Chapter 3's discussion of the territory's tourism-linked tertiary sector, where a separate industry source recorded Diu Airport passenger traffic rising from 66,252 in the 2024 financial year to 127,659 in the 2026 financial year, an increase of approximately 93 percent over that two-year window (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). Diu Airport connects the island to Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Bhuj, providing the territory's most geographically remote district with meaningfully expanding air connectivity to India's major western commercial centres (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2025).

A further, more localised aviation development identified for this Framework concerns proposed helicopter or chopper service connecting Daman and Diu directly, a project explicitly designed to close the 13-hour road travel distance between the two Union Territory

districts down to approximately one hour by air, addressing the extreme inter-district travel time burden created by the territory's non-contiguous geography discussed throughout this chapter (Diu District Administration, 2026). This Framework assesses this proposed direct Daman-Diu air link as a particularly high-value connectivity investment specific to the territory's unusual fragmented geography, since it would directly address the single most acute intra-territorial connectivity constraint identified across the sources reviewed for this chapter, namely the 657-kilometre road distance separating the territory's two coastal districts.

8.4 Ports, Inland Waterways and Logistics Hubs

Given the territory's coastal geography, established in Chapter 1, with both Daman and Diu situated directly on the Arabian Sea coastline, port and maritime infrastructure carries particular significance for the territory's fisheries sector, discussed in Chapter 3, and its broader logistics connectivity. Daman's historical significance as a port town, once famous for its docks, is well documented in the territory's colonial and geographic history, with the Daman Ganga River flowing through the town toward its outlet at the Arabian Sea, a river mouth location that historically supported Daman's function as a trading port during the Portuguese colonial period discussed in Chapter 1 (Britannica, 2025c).

The most significant contemporary maritime infrastructure development relevant to the territory is the September 2025 partnership between India and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop Blue Port infrastructure nationally, a programme explicitly aimed at modernising fishing harbours, integrating technology and sustainability considerations, boosting fisheries exports, and strengthening food security, discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the territory's emerging blue economy growth corridor (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This Framework assesses Daman's fishing harbour, given the district's established fisheries sector documented in Chapter 3, as a strong candidate for inclusion within this national Blue Port modernisation programme, and recommends the territory administration actively pursue formal inclusion of Daman's port and fishing harbour infrastructure within this national initiative to secure dedicated central funding for maritime infrastructure upgrades.

Inland waterway infrastructure within the territory remains limited given the modest scale and navigability of the Daman Ganga River, described in Chapter 1 as the territory's dominant hydrological feature, with Britannica specifically noting that the Daman Ganga is

the only navigable river in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, though its navigability appears limited primarily to smaller vessel traffic rather than substantial commercial inland waterway freight movement of the kind found on India's larger navigable river systems (Britannica, 2025d). This Framework did not identify evidence of a dedicated Inland Waterways Authority of India national waterway designation specific to the Daman Ganga, and assesses that formal inland waterway freight transport is likely to remain a minor component of the territory's overall logistics architecture relative to its dominant road-based freight movement, discussed in Section 8.6.

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

Given the territory's small population and compact urban geography, discussed in Chapter 1, with its largest urban centre, Silvassa, recording a municipal area of only 16 square kilometres, formal, high-capacity urban mass transit infrastructure of the kind found in major Indian metropolitan areas, including metro rail or dedicated Bus Rapid Transit corridors, was not identified as present or planned within the territory based on the sources reviewed for this chapter. Instead, urban mobility within the territory's compact urban centres, Silvassa, Daman, and Diu town, is served predominantly through a mix of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, taxis, and conventional bus services, a public transportation service mix explicitly documented by Maps of India's territory profile as the diverse network of public transportation services provided by the Union Territory administration to commuters (Maps of India, 2020).

Given the compact scale of the territory's individual urban centres, this Framework assesses that the absence of formal mass transit infrastructure of the metro or Bus Rapid Transit variety is unlikely to represent a significant unmet mobility need at present, since travel distances within each of the territory's three district urban cores remain small enough to be adequately served by the existing mix of para-transit and conventional bus modes documented above. This assessment should, however, be revisited over the period covered by this Framework's Vision 2047 planning horizon, discussed in Chapter 21, given the sustained population growth trajectory documented in Chapter 1, since continued growth in Silvassa's urban population and its associated industrial commuter traffic could, over time, create a stronger case for more formalised urban transit investment, particularly given Silvassa's already high population density of over 6,100 persons per square kilometre documented in Chapter 1.

8.6 Multimodal Logistics: Last-Mile Connectivity and Freight Corridors

The territory's overall multimodal logistics architecture, drawing together the road, rail, aviation, and port infrastructure discussed in Sections 8.1 through 8.4, is best understood as a predominantly road-dependent freight system, given the territory's complete absence of its own rail infrastructure documented in Section 8.2 and its currently modest port and inland waterway freight capacity documented in Section 8.4. This road-dependent freight pattern places substantial and continuing importance on the quality and capacity of the territory's National Highway connections, particularly National Highway 848A linking Vapi, Dadra, and Silvassa, discussed in Section 8.1, which functions as the primary freight artery connecting the territory's dominant Dadra and Nagar Haveli manufacturing base, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 4, to Vapi's rail-linked logistics infrastructure and, beyond that, to the ports of Mumbai and Gujarat.

Last-mile connectivity within the territory's industrial estates, discussed in Chapter 4, depends substantially on the internal road network documented in Section 8.1, with Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's 866 kilometres of internal roads serving as the connective tissue linking the territory's more than 45 private industrial estates and three government industrial estates to the National Highway network. This Framework assesses that continued investment in this internal road network, alongside the broader National Highway upgrades associated with the proposed Baroda-Mumbai Expressway discussed in Section 8.1, represents the most economically consequential transport infrastructure priority for the territory over the medium term, given the direct dependence of the territory's dominant textile, plastics, and export-oriented manufacturing sectors, documented in Chapter 3, on efficient, low-cost freight movement to and from the ports and markets of Mumbai and Gujarat.

Looking ahead to the completion of the proposed high-speed rail corridor through Naroли and Vapi discussed in Section 8.2, and the proposed Baroda-Mumbai Expressway discussed in Section 8.1, this Framework recommends the territory administration develop an integrated, multimodal logistics masterplan explicitly sequencing these major planned infrastructure investments against the continued growth trajectory of the territory's export-oriented manufacturing base, documented in Chapter 3, and its emerging blue economy and fisheries logistics needs, documented in Section 8.4, to ensure that the territory's transport infrastructure development keeps pace with, and continues to actively enable, its distinctive and disproportionately significant role within India's western industrial and export economy.

Chapter 9's discussion of the territory's power and energy infrastructure, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap, both build directly on the transport connectivity foundation examined in this chapter.

CHAPTER 9: ENERGY, POWER AND RENEWABLE TRANSITION

The energy sector of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a position of particular economic significance within this Framework, given the territory's dense, power-intensive manufacturing base documented extensively in Chapters 3 and 4. This chapter examines the territory's power generation capacity, transmission and distribution performance, electrification coverage, renewable energy potential, energy efficiency, and regulatory tariff framework across six sections, drawing on official Ministry of Power data, territorial electricity department records, and independent power sector analysis.

9.1 Power Generation: Installed Capacity, Mix and Dependence Profile

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu does not possess a substantial independent, territory-owned power generation base of the kind maintained by many Indian states through their own generation companies. The territory's own bankers' committee infrastructure profile for Daman district confirms explicitly that the district does not have its own power generating capacity, with electricity instead purchased in bulk from National Thermal Power Corporation Super Thermal Power Stations at Korba and Vindhyachal, alongside supply from the Gujarat Electricity Board (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). This pattern of power procurement from central sector generating stations, rather than territory-owned generation, is confirmed at the broader territorial level by Indiatat's power sector data compilation, which states that the territory receives its power from Central sector power stations in the western region and that the territory has been fully electrified (Indiatat, 2025h).

Within this centrally sourced power supply architecture, the territory's installed generation capacity mix, as documented in Chapter 4's discussion of the territory's limited public sector undertaking footprint, was recorded for the 2026 financial year at 526.05 megawatts managed



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by central utilities and 338.65 megawatts managed by private companies, together constituting the territory's total accessible generation capacity base, whether physically located within the territory or contracted from external central and private generation sources (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This capacity mix, weighted toward central utility-sourced power but with a substantial and meaningful private sector generation component, reflects the broader national trend toward increased private participation in India's power generation sector, and provides the territory's dense industrial base with a generation supply architecture that, while not independently owned by the territory administration, benefits from the scale economies and diversification of India's broader national and regional grid-connected generation fleet.

The territory's transmission infrastructure, distinct from its generation dependence on external sources, is managed by DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited, formerly known as DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited, an undertaking wholly owned by the Union Territory administration and operating under the chairmanship of the Administrator, currently Praful Khoda Patel, discussed in Chapter 1 (DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited, 2026). This corporation is responsible specifically for the transmission function within the territory, overseeing the 220/66 kilovolt substations, solar generation infrastructure, and associated transmission works across the territory, with its technical wing headed by a Chief Engineer, Electrical, its accounts wing headed by a Chief Financial Officer, and its human resources function headed by a General Manager (DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited, 2026). This institutional separation between a wholly territory-owned transmission corporation and a predominantly externally sourced generation base represents a distinctive structural feature of the territory's power sector, one that concentrates territorial public ownership specifically at the transmission and grid infrastructure layer rather than at the generation layer itself.

9.2 Transmission and Distribution: Infrastructure, Losses and Reliability

The territory's distribution segment underwent a significant structural reform in April 2022, when distribution operations were formally taken over by Torrent Power, a leading private Indian power distribution company, making Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside the subsequently privatised Chandigarh, one of the earliest Union Territories to complete privatisation of its power distribution operations under the broader national power sector reform push toward private distribution participation in Union Territories (Power Line

Magazine, 2024). This privatisation reform is further corroborated by industry conference documentation noting that the process of separating power departments and utilities in Union Territories had made progress, with Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside Chandigarh, successfully awarded to private operators while the remaining Union Territories' distribution privatisation processes remained in the pipeline (India Infrastructure, 2022).

Distribution operations in the territory are carried out under a corporate entity referenced as DNHDDPDCL, the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, formed as a special purpose vehicle specifically responsible for distribution and retail supply of electricity following the territory's power sector restructuring, a corporate entity distinct from the transmission-focused DNH and DD Power Corporation Limited discussed in Section 9.1 (Daman and Diu Electricity Department, 2026). This bifurcation between a territorially owned transmission entity and a privately operated distribution entity, following the Torrent Power takeover, reflects the now-standard unbundled power sector structure adopted progressively across India since the Electricity Act, 2003, separating generation, transmission, and distribution functions into distinct institutional entities.

On technical performance, the most authoritative and directly comparable data point identified for this chapter comes from the Ministry of Power's own response to a Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question, which recorded the territory's aggregate technical and commercial losses, expressed through the discom entity DNHDDPDCL, at 7.95 percent in an earlier reference year and 3.58 percent in a subsequent year within the comparison period covered by that parliamentary reply, figures that compare exceptionally favourably against several other Union Territory and state discoms listed in the same table, including Delhi's three discoms recording losses in the range of 6.98 to 7.25 percent, and Odisha's discoms recording losses ranging from 17.26 to as high as 31.32 percent in the same comparison year (Ministry of Power, 2024). This places the territory's power distribution technical and commercial loss performance among the strongest recorded nationally in this specific Ministry of Power dataset, a finding consistent with an earlier, separate technical assessment from a 2013 tribunal proceeding, which recorded the Transmission and Distribution loss specifically for Dadra and Nagar Haveli at 6.25 percent, a figure the appellant in that proceeding contrasted favourably against a disputed, higher loss figure calculated by the regulatory Joint Commission for the neighbouring Daman and Diu distribution area at the time (Daman Industries Association v. Electricity Department of Daman and Diu, 2013).

This strong loss performance should be read against the broader national context of India's power distribution sector, where aggregate technical and commercial losses nationally were recorded at 20.93 percent in 2020-21 according to industry conference documentation, before improving to 15.4 percent in the 2023 financial year and then showing some slippage to 17.6 percent in the 2024 financial year, according to the most recent Ministry of Power provisional estimates reviewed by Power Line Magazine (India Infrastructure, 2022; Power Line Magazine, 2024). Against this national backdrop of persistent and, in the most recent reporting year, worsening aggregate technical and commercial losses across India's power distribution sector as a whole, the territory's comparatively low loss figures represent a genuine structural strength, likely attributable both to the territory's compact, dense, and predominantly industrial and urban consumer base, which is inherently less prone to the long, thinly loaded rural distribution lines that drive higher losses in more agrarian and dispersed state distribution systems, and to the operational discipline introduced through the Torrent Power privatisation discussed above.

9.3 Rural and Household Electrification: Coverage and Quality

As established in Section 9.1, Indiatat's power sector data compilation for the territory confirms that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has been fully electrified, a status consistent with India's broader national achievement of near-universal household electrification under the Saubhagya scheme, completed nationally in the years preceding this Framework's preparation (Indiatat, 2025h). Given the territory's small, compact geography and its predominantly urban and industrially concentrated population distribution, discussed in Chapter 1, achieving and maintaining full electrification coverage across the territory's limited rural hinterland, concentrated primarily in Nagar Haveli taluka's tribal interior, represents a more logistically tractable undertaking than the equivalent achievement across the vastly larger and more geographically dispersed rural populations of India's major states.

On the quality dimension of electrification, distinct from mere connection coverage, the strong aggregate technical and commercial loss performance documented in Section 9.2 provides indirect evidence of a generally well-functioning distribution network capable of delivering reliable supply quality to connected households, though this Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific power supply reliability index report, of the kind increasingly published by several Indian states tracking metrics such as System Average Interruption Duration Index and System Average Interruption Frequency Index, with

sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter. This Framework recommends the territory administration, working with the distribution operator Torrent Power, publish such standardised reliability indices on a regular basis to complement the existing loss and financial performance data already available through Ministry of Power reporting channels.

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

Renewable energy represents the single most rapidly developing and, in relative national terms, most distinguished component of the territory's energy sector, driven substantially by achievements in Diu district specifically. Diu achieved a genuinely notable national milestone by becoming the first district in India to meet its entire daytime power demand through solar energy, a achievement built on a combined solar generation capacity of 11.88 megawatts, comprising 9 megawatts of ground-mounted solar capacity and 2.88 megawatts of rooftop solar capacity, a milestone explicitly recognised by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in reporting from May 2025 discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the territory's emerging renewable energy growth corridor (Invest India, 2026; India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b).

Building on this Diu-specific achievement, the territory administration has articulated a substantially more ambitious territory-wide renewable energy expansion target as part of its broader Vision 2047 strategic framework, discussed further in Chapter 21. Invest India's territory investment profile confirms that the Union Territory is aggressively expanding its green energy footprint specifically to reduce carbon dependency, with renewable energy capacity targeted to grow from approximately 52 megawatts to 500 megawatts, a nearly tenfold expansion target guided by the territory's long-term Vision 2047 strategic framework, which the same source identifies as targeting significant environmental and industrial milestones over the coming decades (Invest India, 2026). This target, while ambitious relative to the territory's small land area, discussed in Chapter 1, is consistent with the broader sustainability initiatives the territory administration has implemented spanning renewable energy, waste management, and socio-economic empowerment, initiatives explicitly highlighted in Invest India's investment promotion narrative for the territory (Invest India, 2026).

Solar power specifically, given the territory's tropical monsoon climate documented in Chapter 1 and its comparatively limited but non-trivial solar irradiance profile characteristic

of India's western coastal belt, represents the clearly dominant renewable energy resource for the territory, as evidenced by Diu's solar-specific achievement discussed above and the broader territory-wide capacity expansion target's evident orientation toward continued solar deployment. Wind, hydro, and biomass renewable energy resources within the territory appear comparatively underdeveloped relative to solar based on the sources reviewed for this chapter, and this Framework did not identify specific installed capacity figures for these alternative renewable energy sources within the territory, suggesting that the territory's renewable energy strategy, at least as currently documented, is substantially solar-concentrated rather than diversified across multiple renewable technology types, a strategic choice this Framework assesses as reasonable given the territory's small land area, limited elevation change for hydro potential beyond the Madhuban Reservoir discussed in Chapter 1, and comparatively modest wind resource potential typical of India's western coastal lowlands relative to higher-wind-potential regions such as Gujarat's Kutch coastline or Tamil Nadu's southern coastal belt.

9.5 Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Demand-Side Management

Energy efficiency and demand-side management within the territory operate within the broader national framework administered by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power, including standard national programmes such as the Standards and Labelling scheme for appliance energy efficiency and the Perform, Achieve and Trade scheme targeting large industrial energy consumers, both of which extend to the territory's substantial industrial base documented in Chapters 3 and 4 on the same basis as they apply across Indian states.

Given the scale and energy intensity of the territory's dominant textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing sectors, discussed extensively in Chapter 3, energy efficiency and demand-side management within this industrial base carries particular economic and environmental significance for the territory, since manufacturing processes in these sub-sectors, particularly polyester texturising and plastics extrusion, are typically energy-intensive relative to lighter manufacturing activities. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific industrial energy efficiency audit report or demand-side management programme evaluation with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, and recommends, given the direct linkage between the territory's Investment Promotion Scheme incentive architecture discussed in Chapter 4 and its industrial energy

consumption profile, that future revisions of that scheme incorporate specific energy efficiency compliance benchmarks or incentives for participating industrial units, building on the scheme's existing environmental conservation policy objective documented in Chapter 4.

9.6 State Electricity Regulatory Framework and Tariff Policy

Electricity tariff regulation and policy for the territory falls under the jurisdiction of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, the body responsible for tariff determination across several of India's smaller Union Territories, as evidenced by the 2013 tribunal proceeding discussed in Section 9.2, which specifically referenced the Joint Commission's role in determining transmission and distribution loss calculations and tariff structures for the territory's industrial consumers (*Daman Industries Association v. Electricity Department of Daman and Diu*, 2013). That same 2013 proceeding documented a specific historical tariff disparity concern raised by industry representatives, namely that the tariff for high tension industrial consumers in Dadra and Nagar Haveli was substantially lower than the equivalent tariff for the same consumer category in Daman and Diu, despite the two Union Territories, at that time still administratively separate, incurring almost identical power purchase costs, a disparity the industry association argued was unjustified given the similar underlying cost structure (*Daman Industries Association v. Electricity Department of Daman and Diu*, 2013).

Following the 2020 merger discussed throughout this Framework and the subsequent 2022 distribution privatisation to Torrent Power discussed in Section 9.2, contemporary tariff structures for the merged territory, administered through the DNH Power Distribution Corporation Limited retail tariff framework, range from approximately 1.50 to 4.50 rupees per unit as of the 2024-25 tariff schedule, according to a third-party electricity bill calculation service tracking the territory's official DISCOM tariff structure (*TheDiscomBill*, 2026). This contemporary tariff range, applicable uniformly across the merged territory following the 2020 administrative consolidation, suggests that the specific pre-merger tariff disparity between Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu documented in the 2013 tribunal proceeding has likely been resolved through the territory's post-merger tariff unification process, though this Framework was unable to identify a specific, dated regulatory order confirming the precise mechanism and timeline through which this tariff harmonisation was achieved, and recommends the territory's Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission publish clear documentation of this harmonisation process for the benefit of continued regulatory transparency.

On the financial performance dimension of tariff regulation, the Ministry of Power's Rajya Sabha reply data discussed in Section 9.2 additionally reported an Average Cost of Supply to Average Revenue Realised gap, a standard national metric of discom financial health, for the territory's DNHDDPDCL entity, situating the territory's financial performance within a broader national dataset in which the gap between average cost of supply and average revenue realised across India's discoms overall fell from 0.59 rupees per unit in the 2023 financial year to 0.39 rupees per unit in the 2024 financial year, reducing the sector's aggregate cash gap from 85,000 crore rupees to 58,000 crore rupees nationally over that one-year period (Business Standard, 2025). This Framework assesses that the territory's specific combination of comparatively low technical and commercial losses, documented in Section 9.2, and its early, successfully implemented distribution privatisation, discussed in the same section, together position the territory's power sector on a comparatively sound financial and operational footing relative to the persistent discom financial stress that continues to characterise several larger Indian states' power distribution sectors, a genuine structural advantage that directly supports the continued reliability and cost competitiveness of power supply to the territory's dominant, power-intensive industrial base discussed throughout this Framework. Chapter 13's discussion of environmental governance and Chapter 14's discussion of climate change and ecological security both build on this chapter's renewable energy findings, while Chapter 21's Vision 2047 roadmap incorporates the territory's ambitious 500 megawatt renewable energy target discussed in Section 9.4 as a specific, quantified milestone for the territory's long-term energy transition strategy.

CHAPTER 10: WATER, SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Water security, sanitation, and solid waste management in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu present one of the more genuinely positive national performance stories documented in this Framework, anchored by the territory's early and complete achievement of universal rural tap water coverage. This chapter examines the territory's performance across five domains, drinking water supply, irrigation infrastructure, sanitation and open defecation free sustainability, solid waste management, and liquid waste and sewerage treatment, drawing substantially on Ministry of Jal Shakti reporting and an independent functionality assessment survey specific to the territory.

10.1 Drinking Water Supply: Coverage, Quality and Infrastructure

The territory's most significant and best documented achievement in this sector is its early completion of universal rural tap water coverage under the national Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by the Government of India on 15 August 2019 with the goal of providing functional household tap connections to every rural household by 2024 (Har Ghar Jal, as cited in Organiser, 2025). The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation's Year End Review 2022 confirms that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside the states of Goa, Telangana, Gujarat, and Haryana and the Union Territories of Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, achieved Har Ghar Jal status, meaning every rural household in the territory had provision of tap water supply, with the territory specifically recognised as becoming the first Har Ghar Jal certified Union Territory in India, an achievement recorded in August 2022, alongside Goa's parallel recognition as the first Har Ghar Jal certified state (Drishti IAS, 2022).

A particularly notable feature of the territory's achievement, distinguishing it from several other early-achieving states and Union Territories, is that it was accomplished without significant reliance on central Jal Jeevan Mission funding. An investigative report published in 2025 states explicitly that, unlike Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had not drawn any central funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission but had still managed to achieve 100 percent tap water coverage in its rural areas, an achievement the report attributes implicitly to the territory's own administrative and financial capacity, discussed in Chapter 2's treatment of the territory's Union Budget-financed but locally administered fiscal architecture (Organiser, 2025). This finding is analytically significant, since it demonstrates that the territory's water security achievement reflects genuine local administrative effectiveness rather than simply superior access to central scheme financing, a distinction with positive implications for the territory's broader institutional capacity to deliver infrastructure outcomes independent of dedicated central funding streams.

Beyond the headline Har Ghar Jal certification, a more granular, ground-truthed assessment of actual service functionality was conducted through a formal Functionality Assessment Survey covering Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in March 2022, employing Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing methodology across sampled villages and households in each of the territory's three districts (Jal Jeevan Mission, 2022). This survey found that 78 percent of households in the territory overall had a functional household tap



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water connection at the time of the survey, a figure notably lower than the 100 percent Har Ghar Jal certification status the territory had achieved on paper, with functionality varying considerably by district, Daman district reporting 97 percent functional households, the highest among the three districts, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli reported 71 percent functionality and Diu reported 68 percent functionality (Jal Jeevan Mission, 2022). The same survey found that regular supply of water was least reliable in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district specifically, recorded at 84 percent regularity, indicating that even where connections existed and were nominally functional, the consistency of actual water delivery varied across the territory's three districts (Jal Jeevan Mission, 2022).

This gap between the territory's formal Har Ghar Jal certification status, which reflects the existence of a tap water connection provision at every rural household, and the more rigorous functionality assessment finding of 78 percent actual functional connectivity, illustrates an important distinction this Framework flags for continued policy attention, namely that formal scheme certification milestones, while meaningful indicators of infrastructure rollout, do not always fully capture the lived, day-to-day reliability of water service delivery experienced by households, particularly in Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli districts where functionality lagged furthest behind Daman's stronger performance. This Framework recommends the territory administration use this functionality assessment survey as a baseline for targeted infrastructure maintenance and reliability improvement investment specifically in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Diu districts, to close the gap between formal certification and ground-level service consistency documented by this independent survey.

On urban and non-rural water supply specifically, distinct from the rural-focused Jal Jeevan Mission architecture discussed above, this Framework did not identify a standalone, disaggregated urban water supply coverage assessment for the territory's dense urban centres, Silvassa, Daman, and Diu town, with sufficient recency for direct citation, and recommends that future statistical reporting for the territory extend the same rigorous functionality assessment methodology applied to rural areas to its urban water supply systems as well, given the substantial and growing urban population documented in Chapter 1.

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

Irrigation infrastructure in the territory is anchored by the Madhuban Reservoir on the Daman Ganga River, discussed in Chapter 1 as the largest water storage structure in the territory, serving irrigation, drinking water supply, and limited hydroelectric functions for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district. Given the territory's high monsoon rainfall regime, documented in Chapter 1 at between 2,000 and 3,000 millimetres annually for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, the territory's irrigation infrastructure needs differ meaningfully from those of drier, more irrigation-dependent Indian states, since a substantial share of the territory's agricultural cropping pattern, discussed in Chapter 3, relies on direct monsoon rainfall for the kharif cropping season rather than exclusively on constructed irrigation command area infrastructure.

This Framework did not identify a comprehensive, disaggregated command area statistics report specific to the territory's irrigation infrastructure, including total irrigated area, irrigation efficiency ratios, or water-use productivity metrics by crop type, with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner agricultural statistical reporting available for this small territory relative to major agricultural states, discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the territory's primary sector. Given the territory's shared dependency on the Daman Ganga river system with neighbouring Gujarat, discussed in Chapter 2's treatment of the territory's budgetary provision for share capital payment to the Government of Gujarat for the Daman Ganga Reservoir, this Framework recommends the territory administration develop and publish a dedicated command area and water-use efficiency assessment for its irrigation infrastructure, incorporating both the territory's own Madhuban Reservoir command area and its shared interests in the broader Daman Ganga basin water allocation arrangement with Gujarat.

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

The territory's sanitation performance under the Swachh Bharat Mission architecture appears strong based on the available comparative evidence, though direct, territory-specific Open Defecation Free verification and Swachh Survekshan ranking data with sufficient recency for direct citation was more limited than the drinking water data discussed in Section 10.1. A comprehensive academic assessment of India's progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 6, covering water and sanitation indicators including the percentage of individual household toilets constructed against target and the percentage of districts verified as Open Defecation Free, found that Dadra and Nagar Haveli, alongside Chandigarh, Ladakh,



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Lakshadweep, Sikkim, and Goa, belonged to the highest performing Achiever stage category on this composite Sustainable Development Goal 6 index, a category the study defines using a composite score threshold above the Front Runner stage occupied by a much larger group of states and Union Territories including Kerala, Gujarat, and Maharashtra among others (Public Health Foundation, as cited in PMC, 2022). This Achiever stage classification specifically for Dadra and Nagar Haveli, distinct from Daman and Diu's separate historical reporting category prior to the 2020 merger discussed throughout this Framework, provides strong independent corroboration that the territory's core sanitation infrastructure and Open Defecation Free achievement, at least for the Dadra and Nagar Haveli component of the merged territory, ranks among the very strongest in the country on this composite national assessment.

The national Swachh Bharat Mission, Grameen, Phase II, launched following the initial achievement of Open Defecation Free status nationally, focuses on sustaining that ODF achievement while introducing comprehensive solid and liquid waste management across rural India to achieve what the programme terms Sampurn Swachhata, or complete cleanliness, supported nationally by an investment of 1.40 lakh crore rupees integrating various governmental schemes, and extended to the territory on the same basis as to India's states (Swachh Bharat Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2026). This second-phase programme architecture, oriented toward ODF Plus status incorporating solid and liquid waste management, directly connects this section's sanitation focus to the solid waste management and liquid waste treatment themes examined in Sections 10.4 and 10.5 below, since the national programme design explicitly treats basic open defecation elimination as only the first stage of a more comprehensive rural sanitation and waste management continuum.

10.4 Solid Waste Management: Municipal, Biomedical and Hazardous Waste

Solid waste management in the territory operates across three distinct waste streams, municipal solid waste generated by the territory's dense urban population documented in Chapter 1, biomedical waste generated by the territory's healthcare infrastructure documented in Chapter 6, particularly its NAMO Hospital in Silvassa and its network of smaller facilities, and hazardous industrial waste generated by the territory's substantial plastics, chemical, and textile manufacturing base documented extensively in Chapter 3, a waste stream carrying

particular significance given the specific hazard profile associated with plastics and chemical processing industries.

Municipal solid waste management within the territory's urban centres falls under the jurisdiction of the Silvassa Municipal Council and Daman Municipal Council, discussed in Chapter 1, operating within the broader national Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, framework administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which mandates source segregation, scientific processing, and safe disposal of municipal solid waste across all urban local bodies nationally, including within this territory. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific municipal solid waste processing capacity assessment, source segregation compliance rate, or landfill remediation status report with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, representing a further specific data gap consistent with the broader pattern of thinner disaggregated infrastructure reporting available for this small Union Territory relative to major states.

Given the territory's substantial concentration of plastics manufacturing, discussed in Chapter 3 as accounting for approximately 28 percent of India's total plastic production, hazardous and industrial waste management carries particular significance for the territory's environmental governance framework, discussed further in Chapter 13. This Framework recommends that the territory administration, working with the Central Pollution Control Board and its own territorial Pollution Control Committee, publish a dedicated industrial hazardous waste generation and disposal compliance report specific to its plastics, chemical, and textile manufacturing sectors, given the direct relevance of this waste stream to both public health outcomes and the broader environmental sustainability of the territory's dominant industrial growth model discussed throughout this Framework, particularly in light

of the sustainability initiatives spanning waste management explicitly highlighted in Invest India's territory investment promotion narrative discussed in Chapter 9.

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

Liquid waste and sewerage treatment infrastructure represents a further specific domain within this chapter where comprehensive, territory-specific data availability was more limited than for the territory's headline drinking water achievement discussed in Section 10.1. The broader Sustainable Development Goal 6 assessment discussed in Section 10.3 incorporated

the percentage of household safe disposal of liquid waste as one component of its composite index, within which Dadra and Nagar Haveli's Achiever stage classification implies comparatively strong performance on this specific liquid waste disposal indicator as well, though this Framework was unable to extract a standalone, disaggregated liquid waste treatment capacity or sewerage network coverage percentage specific to the territory with sufficient precision for direct citation (Public Health Foundation, as cited in PMC, 2022).

Given the territory's dense urban and industrial geography, discussed throughout this Framework, and its coastal location in Daman and Diu districts, where inadequately treated liquid waste and sewerage discharge carries direct risk to the coastal and marine ecosystem health discussed further in Chapter 13's treatment of coastal and marine resource management, this Framework assesses sewerage treatment infrastructure as a specific priority area warranting continued capital investment attention, building on the strong foundational achievement in rural drinking water and basic sanitation documented earlier in this chapter. The national Swachh Bharat Mission, Grameen, Phase II programme's explicit incorporation of comprehensive liquid waste management alongside solid waste management within its Sampurn Swachhata objective, discussed in Section 10.3, provides an existing national programme architecture and funding channel through which the territory administration can continue to strengthen this specific infrastructure domain.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has achieved genuinely strong, independently verified performance on the foundational water and sanitation indicators tracked through the national Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission architecture, achievements made more notable by the finding that the territory's rural tap water success was accomplished with minimal reliance on central scheme funding, discussed in Section 10.1. At the same time, the granular functionality assessment survey discussed in that same section provides important, corrective nuance to the territory's formal certification achievements, revealing meaningful district-level variation in actual service reliability that merits continued targeted investment, particularly in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Diu districts. The comparatively thinner data availability for irrigation efficiency, solid waste processing capacity, and liquid waste and sewerage treatment infrastructure, discussed in Sections 10.2, 10.4, and 10.5 respectively, represents this chapter's primary recommendation for future institutional attention, building on the strong data transparency foundation already established through the territory's participation in national water and sanitation reporting architecture. Chapter 11's discussion



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of urban development and housing, and Chapter 13's discussion of environmental and natural resource governance, both connect directly to the infrastructure themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the coastal water quality and industrial waste management priorities identified above.



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CHAPTER 11: URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND SMART CITIES

Urban development in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu unfolds across three small but distinct urban centres, Silvassa, Daman, and Diu, each governed by its own municipal council and each shaped by a different combination of industrial, administrative, and heritage tourism functions. This chapter examines the territory's urban governance architecture, municipal finance, housing landscape, Smart Cities Mission participation, heritage urbanism, and urban poverty across six sections.

11.1 Urbanisation Trends and Urban Governance Architecture

The territory's urban geography is anchored by three municipal centres corresponding to its three constituent districts. Silvassa, established in 1885 and now the headquarters of Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, is the largest city in the Union Territory, recording a population of 98,266 at the 2011 Census across a compact municipal area of 16 square kilometres, giving a population density of approximately 6,100 persons per square kilometre, and is governed as a Municipal Council under Mayor Rakeshsinh Chauhan (Wikipedia, 2025i). Daman, the territory's capital and second largest urban centre, recorded a population of 44,282 at the 2011 Census across just 6.5 square kilometres, an even higher density of approximately 6,800 persons per square kilometre, and is governed by the Daman Municipal Council under Council President Sonal Issuarlal Patel (Wikipedia, 2025j). Diu town, the smallest of the three, recorded a population of 52,076 at the 2011 Census across 40 square kilometres, a comparatively lower density of approximately 1,300 persons per square kilometre, and is



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governed by the Diu Municipal Council under President Hemlatabai Rama (Wikipedia, 2025s).

All three municipal bodies operate under a single, unifying statutory instrument, the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Municipal Council Regulation, 2004, which establishes the legal and administrative framework for municipal governance uniformly across the territory's urban local bodies (India Code, 2022). A comprehensive database of India's urban local bodies confirms that the territory maintains a total of three urban local government bodies, one in each of its three districts, with no cantonment boards, no separate City Municipal Councils, and no Town Municipal Councils beyond these three principal district-headquarters municipal councils (LocalBodyData.com, 2026). This compact, uniform three-municipality structure, governed by a single territorial regulation rather than the more elaborate, multi-tiered urban local body hierarchies found in larger states, reflects the territory's small scale and administrative simplicity discussed throughout this Framework, and stands in contrast to major states such as Kerala, which maintain dozens or hundreds of municipal corporations, municipalities, and township authorities operating under more complex, differentiated statutory frameworks.

At the district level, population and density data compiled from the 2011 Census confirms the sharp variation in urbanisation intensity across the territory's three districts. Daman district as a whole recorded a population of 190,855 across 72 square kilometres, a density of 2,650.76 persons per square kilometre, the highest district-level density in the territory given Daman's small land area and concentrated urban and peri-urban settlement pattern. Diu district recorded 52,056 persons across 40 square kilometres, a density of 1,301.40 persons per square kilometre, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, despite containing the territory's largest individual city in Silvassa, recorded a comparatively lower overall district density of 698.27 persons per square kilometre across its much larger 491 square kilometre area, reflecting the substantial rural and forested hinterland documented in Chapter 1 that surrounds the district's dense urban and industrial core (Wikipedia, 2025g). This pattern, in which Daman district as a whole is more uniformly urbanised than Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, where urbanisation is instead sharply concentrated within Silvassa's compact municipal boundary against a much larger rural and tribal hinterland, is an important structural distinction for urban planners to bear in mind when designing territory-wide urban development policy, since a uniform approach applied across all three districts would fail to account for this fundamentally different underlying settlement geography.

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

Financial and administrative capacity data specific to the territory's three municipal councils, disaggregated by own-revenue collection, establishment expenditure, and capital works expenditure, was not identified with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner municipal finance reporting available for this small Union Territory relative to the more extensively documented municipal finance systems of major Indian states. What can be established is that municipal governance capacity in the territory benefits from the comparatively small scale of each municipal council's jurisdiction, discussed in Section 11.1, since Silvassa, Daman, and Diu each govern populations in the range of 44,000 to 98,000 persons across correspondingly compact geographic areas, a scale that is, in principle, more administratively tractable for a municipal council to manage effectively than the vastly larger populations governed by major metropolitan corporations elsewhere in India.

Service delivery performance for the territory's urban local bodies draws on several of the strong sectoral indicators already documented elsewhere in this Framework. Chapter 10's discussion of water and sanitation established that Daman district recorded the highest household tap water functionality rate among the territory's three districts at 97 percent, alongside the territory's broader Achiever stage classification on the composite Sustainable Development Goal 6 index, both indicators reflecting favourably on the underlying municipal and territorial service delivery infrastructure supporting the territory's urban centres. This Framework recommends that the territory administration extend this same rigour of sectoral performance measurement, evident in the water and sanitation domain, to a comprehensive, standalone municipal finance and service delivery report specifically covering the Silvassa, Daman, and Diu Municipal Councils, to enable more precise year-on-year tracking of urban local body performance across the full range of municipal functions, including property tax collection efficiency, solid waste collection coverage discussed in Chapter 10, and street lighting and road maintenance service levels.

11.3 Housing: Demand Assessment, Affordability and Flagship Schemes

Housing demand in the territory is shaped decisively by the same demographic pattern documented throughout this Framework, namely substantial and continuing in-migration of industrial labour into Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's urban and peri-urban core, discussed

extensively in Chapters 1, 3, and 7. This migrant labour in-migration creates a housing demand profile distinct from that of a typical Indian urban centre, since a substantial share of the territory's housing need is driven by transient or semi-permanent industrial worker accommodation demand rather than solely by the housing needs of an organically growing settled resident population, a distinction with direct implications for the appropriate mix of housing typologies, tenure security, and worker hostel or dormitory-style accommodation that territorial housing policy should prioritise relative to conventional owner-occupied residential housing schemes.

The territory's participation in national housing schemes operates through the standard Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana architecture, encompassing both the Urban and Gramin, or rural, components extended nationally to all states and Union Territories including this one, discussed further in Chapter 12's treatment of rural housing specifically. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban beneficiary completion count, housing shortage assessment, or affordability index with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data gap this Framework flags for future institutional attention, particularly given the housing demand pressure implied by the territory's exceptionally high urban population densities documented in Section 11.1, with Daman recording densities as high as 6,800 persons per square kilometre and Silvassa recording densities of approximately 6,100 persons per square kilometre, figures that, while partly a function of small municipal boundary definitions, nonetheless suggest meaningful housing density and affordability pressure within the territory's core urban areas.

Given the territory's substantial migrant workforce, discussed in Chapters 3 and 7, this Framework recommends that future territorial housing policy give specific, dedicated attention to worker housing standards and availability, potentially through incentivised employer-provided housing schemes linked to the territory's Investment Promotion Scheme incentive architecture discussed in Chapter 4, an approach that would directly address the distinct housing demand profile created by the territory's industrial labour migration pattern rather than relying solely on conventional affordable ownership housing schemes designed primarily around settled resident population needs.

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

Silvassa holds a distinctive and significant position within India's national urban development architecture as one of the hundred cities selected under the Government of India's flagship



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Smart Cities Mission, a national urban renewal and infrastructure modernisation programme launched to drive economic growth and improve quality of life in participating cities through comprehensive area-based development and pan-city smart solutions (Wikipedia, 2025i). This inclusion is independently corroborated by an academic conference paper on smart cities and urban development, which lists Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, alongside Silvassa specifically, among a broader national roster of cities and towns encompassed within India's smart city planning discourse, positioned alongside larger and more prominent smart city participants including Chandigarh, Raipur, Panaji, Gandhinagar, Surat, and Vadodara (ICISSET, 2025).

Silvassa's selection under the Smart Cities Mission carries particular significance given the city's role as the territory's dominant industrial and population centre, discussed throughout this Framework, since Smart Cities Mission investments in area-based development, encompassing retrofitting, redevelopment, or greenfield development of a defined city area, alongside pan-city smart solutions spanning digital governance, integrated traffic management, and smart utility metering, are directly relevant to managing the continued urban growth pressures created by the territory's sustained industrial labour in-migration documented in Section 11.3. This Framework did not identify a specific, itemised list of Smart Cities Mission projects completed or under implementation in Silvassa with sufficient recency for direct citation, and recommends the territory administration publish a dedicated Smart Cities Mission progress report for Silvassa, given the strategic importance of this national programme designation to the territory's broader urban development ambitions.

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, or AMRUT, India's complementary national urban infrastructure programme focused specifically on providing basic urban infrastructure, including water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage, urban transport, and green spaces, in a defined set of mission cities and towns, extends in principle to eligible urban local bodies within the territory on the same basis as it applies across India's other participating states and Union Territories. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific AMRUT implementation report or project completion status with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation, representing a further specific institutional transparency gap this Framework recommends the territory administration address, particularly given the direct relevance of AMRUT's infrastructure focus areas to the water supply and sanitation service delivery themes discussed extensively in Chapter 10.

11.5 Heritage Cities, Cultural Landscapes and Urban Tourism

Daman and Diu occupy a distinctive position within the territory's urban development landscape as heritage cities shaped decisively by more than four centuries of Portuguese colonial rule, discussed extensively in Chapter 1. Diu's urban fabric in particular retains a dense concentration of colonial-era heritage architecture, including the Zampa Gateway, the Churches of São Paulo and São Tomás, the Citadel of Diu, and the Fortim do Mar sea fort, structures that collectively define the town's medieval fortified character, first established in the 1500s (Wikipedia, 2025s). Daman similarly retains substantial Portuguese-era ecclesiastical and fortification architecture, discussed further in Chapter 19's treatment of cultural heritage preservation, with the town's division into Nani Daman and Moti Daman across the Daman Ganga River, discussed in Chapter 1, itself a legacy of the colonial-era urban planning that shaped the town's historic core.

This heritage urban fabric creates a distinctive urban development and conservation challenge for the territory administration, one that must balance continued urban growth and infrastructure modernisation, discussed throughout this chapter, against the preservation of architecturally and historically significant colonial-era urban cores, particularly in Diu, whose heritage assets constitute a primary driver of the territory's tourism economy, discussed in Chapter 3 and further in Chapter 19. This Framework assesses that heritage-sensitive urban planning and conservation-linked development control regulation, of the kind increasingly adopted by other Indian heritage cities such as Jaipur and Hampi, represents a specific urban development priority meriting dedicated policy attention for Daman and Diu's historic urban cores, distinct from the more conventional industrial and residential urban development priorities that dominate planning considerations in Silvassa.

11.6 Urban Poverty, Slum Rehabilitation and In-Situ Upgradation

Urban poverty and informal settlement dynamics within the territory's dense industrial urban centres, particularly Silvassa given its role as the primary destination for the territory's substantial migrant industrial workforce documented throughout this Framework, represent a further specific urban development domain where comprehensive, territory-specific data availability proved limited for this chapter. Given the scale of labour in-migration into Dadra and Nagar Haveli district documented in Chapters 1, 3, and 7, and the well-established national pattern in which rapid industrial labour in-migration into compact urban centres

frequently generates informal or semi-formal settlement growth at the urban periphery, this Framework assesses that informal settlement dynamics are likely to be a meaningful, if under-documented, feature of Silvassa's urban growth pattern specifically, even though a standalone slum enumeration or informal settlement mapping exercise for the territory was not identified with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter.

The national Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban scheme's in-situ slum redevelopment component, alongside the broader national policy shift toward in-situ upgradation rather than displacement-based slum clearance, discussed briefly in Section 11.3, provides an existing national programme architecture through which the territory administration could address any informal settlement growth associated with its industrial labour in-migration pattern, should a formal enumeration exercise confirm the scale of this phenomenon. This Framework recommends, as its principal specific recommendation for this chapter, that the territory administration commission a dedicated informal settlement and urban poverty mapping exercise specifically for Silvassa, given that city's unique role as the primary receiving point for the territory's substantial and continuing industrial labour migration, to establish a clear evidentiary baseline for targeted urban poverty alleviation and, where warranted, in-situ upgradation programming, building on the strong foundational achievements already documented in the territory's water and sanitation sector in Chapter 10 and extending that same standard of evidence-based urban service delivery planning to the specific domain of informal settlement and urban poverty. Chapter 12's discussion of rural development and decentralised governance, and Chapter 19's discussion of tourism and heritage preservation, both connect directly to themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the distinct urban development trajectories of the territory's industrial core in Silvassa versus its heritage tourism centres in Daman and Diu.



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CHAPTER 12: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE

Rural development in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu concentrates overwhelmingly in the tribal, forested interior of Nagar Haveli taluka in Dadra and Nagar

Haveli district, discussed extensively in Chapters 1 and 7, since Daman and Diu districts, given their small size and high urbanisation documented in Chapter 11, carry a comparatively modest rural development footprint by comparison. This chapter examines the territory's rural development and decentralised governance architecture across six sections, spanning Panchayati Raj institutions, MGNREGA implementation, rural housing, livelihood promotion, rural infrastructure connectivity, and community-based participatory planning institutions.

12.1 Panchayati Raj Institutions: Structure, Devolution and Capacity

Panchayati Raj governance in the territory operates under the same three-tier constitutional structure, comprising Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and District Panchayats, established nationally under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, and extended to the territory through its own conformity legislation. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj maintains a dedicated documentation portal specifically for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, confirming the territory's formal inclusion within the national Panchayati Raj monitoring and reporting architecture on the same institutional basis as India's states (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2026).

At the apex of this local structure sits the District Panchayat, discussed briefly in Chapter 1, which coordinates panchayat-level governance across Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's rural hinterland and administers key rural development schemes at the district level, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Gramin, discussed further in Section 12.3 (District Panchayat, U.T. Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026). This District Panchayat structure functions as the primary institutional interface between the territory's rural, predominantly tribal population, documented extensively in Chapter 7, and the broader rural development and social welfare scheme architecture administered jointly by the territory administration and the Union Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

A notable institutional strength documented for the territory's Panchayati Raj governance is its participation in the national SECURE, Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural Schedule of Rates, platform, a digital tool that enables administrative and technical sanction of rural works to be accorded entirely online, a capability the Ministry of Rural Development's own State Performance Report for 2020-21 explicitly credits to the territory, alongside noting that this online sanctioning capability brings transparency and speeds up the process of works approval under MGNREGA and other rural infrastructure schemes

(Ministry of Rural Development, 2021). This digital administrative capability, extended to a small Union Territory administration, represents a genuine institutional strength that a larger, more bureaucratically layered state government might find more difficult to implement uniformly, again illustrating the scale advantage for administrative digitisation discussed at several points elsewhere in this Framework, including Chapter 7's discussion of an integrated social welfare database.

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

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the flagship national rural employment guarantee scheme providing a legal entitlement to one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment per rural household per year, extends to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on the same statutory basis as it applies across India's rural areas, administered locally through the territory's Panchayati Raj institutions discussed in Section 12.1. The Ministry of Rural Development's State Performance Report for 2020-21 confirms the territory's inclusion within the national Cluster Facilitation Project, initiated across 300 blocks nationally on 1 April 2020 specifically to ensure effective implementation of MGNREGS for accelerated development in Aspirational Districts and other backward areas through Geographic Information System-based planning, alongside the territory's online SECURE sanctioning capability discussed in Section 12.1 (Ministry of Rural Development, 2021).

Comprehensive, disaggregated MGNREGA person-day generation, wage rate, and household coverage data specific to the merged territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, comparable to the detailed state-wise breakdowns published in the Ministry of Rural Development's national performance reports, was not identified with sufficient recency and district-level granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation this Framework attributes to the same national statistical architecture gap affecting smaller Union Territories relative to major states, documented throughout this Framework. Given the territory's demonstrated online administrative capability discussed in Section 12.1, this Framework recommends that the territory administration leverage the same SECURE platform infrastructure to publish disaggregated, real-time MGNREGA implementation dashboards specific to the territory, covering person-days generated, average wage rates paid, and the specific proportion of Scheduled Tribe beneficiary households covered, given the direct

relevance of this scheme to the livelihood security of the territory's forest-dependent tribal population documented extensively in Chapter 7.

An important structural consideration for MGNREGA implementation within the territory concerns its interaction with the territory's dominant industrial wage labour economy, discussed extensively in Chapter 3, which offers substantially higher wage rates than the MGNREGA statutory minimum wage in most Indian states. This dynamic suggests that MGNREGA in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu likely functions less as the primary livelihood safety net it represents in many rural, agriculture-dependent Indian states, and more as a targeted, supplementary income support mechanism specifically for the territory's tribal population in Nagar Haveli taluka's more remote and forest-dependent villages, who may have comparatively limited direct access to the territory's dominant industrial wage labour market documented in Chapter 3, an important nuance for territorial rural development planners to bear in mind when assessing the scheme's continued relevance and appropriate targeting within this particular territorial context.

12.3 Rural Housing: PMAY-Gramin and State Schemes

Rural housing provision in the territory operates through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Gramin, scheme, administered at the district level through the District Panchayat discussed in Section 12.1, which is explicitly documented as one of the key rural development programmes coordinated through that institution (District Panchayat, U.T. Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026). Under the national PMAY-Gramin scheme design, eligible rural Below Poverty Line families receive a unit assistance of 1.2 lakh rupees for pucca house construction, combined with an entitlement to 90 to 95 person-days of unskilled MGNREGA labour wages for the beneficiary household, alongside toilet construction support through convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission, Grameen, discussed in Chapter 10 (SchemesinIndia.in, 2026; Ministry of Rural Development, 2021).

A specific and directly relevant targeting consideration for the territory's implementation of this scheme concerns its substantial Scheduled Tribe population, documented extensively in Chapter 7. A dedicated compilation of government schemes available to territory residents explicitly notes that Silvassa has a significant tribal Scheduled Tribe population that receives priority under PMAY-Gramin, confirming that the scheme's implementation within the territory incorporates specific affirmative targeting toward the tribal beneficiary population concentrated in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's rural interior, consistent with the broader

tribal welfare priority this Framework has documented throughout Chapter 7 (SchemesinIndia.in, 2026). This tribal-prioritised implementation approach represents a positive, evidence-based alignment between the territory's rural housing programme delivery and its underlying demographic and social justice priorities, discussed at length in Chapter 7.

Complementing PMAY-Gramin, the territory's urban counterpart scheme, PMAY-Urban, discussed in Chapter 11's treatment of urban housing, extends Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme benefits of up to 2.67 lakh rupees in interest subsidy for Economically Weaker Section and Lower Income Group families, providing a complementary housing support architecture for the territory's urban Below Poverty Line and economically weaker population, discussed in Chapter 11 (SchemesinIndia.in, 2026). Nationally, the Ministry of Rural Development's own performance reporting for the 2020-21 cycle confirms that PMAY-Gramin achieved substantial national completion milestones, with 32,62,889 houses completed nationally in that financial year alone against an overall national target of 2.95 crore houses under the Housing for All objective, providing useful national context against which the territory's own, smaller-scale rural housing completion figures, not separately disaggregated with sufficient precision for direct citation in this chapter, should be understood (Ministry of Rural Development, 2021).

12.4 Livelihood Promotion: SHGs, Cooperatives and Rural Enterprise

Rural livelihood promotion in the territory operates substantially through a Self Help Group-based architecture, consistent with the national Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Rural Livelihoods Mission framework, which aims to create efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor and enable them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancement, extended nationally to all states and Union Territories including this one (AICTE, 2026). A specific, territory-tailored livelihood scheme identified for this Framework provides a seed revolving fund of 15,000 rupees combined with a zero-interest loan of between 1 lakh and 3 lakh rupees specifically for women's Self Help Groups within the territory, a targeted financial inclusion instrument explicitly designed to strengthen women-led rural and semi-urban micro-enterprise activity (SchemesinIndia.in, 2026).

This women-focused Self Help Group livelihood promotion scheme connects directly to the gender equity themes discussed extensively in Chapter 7, since Self Help Group-based livelihood promotion represents one of the most consistently effective national instruments

for strengthening women's economic agency and household bargaining power, particularly in rural and tribal contexts such as Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's interior, where formal industrial wage employment, documented in Chapter 3 as heavily weighted toward male in-migrant labour, may offer comparatively limited direct economic participation opportunities for women within the territory's existing tribal and rural resident population. This Framework assesses that continued expansion of this Self Help Group-based livelihood architecture, potentially linked to value addition in the minor forest produce sector discussed in Chapter 7's treatment of the TRIFED Van Dhan Yojana partnership, represents a particularly promising and demographically well-targeted rural livelihood diversification pathway for the territory, one that would directly complement, rather than compete with, the territory's dominant industrial wage labour economy discussed throughout this Framework.

Cooperative sector development, historically significant to the territory's industrial origins, discussed in Chapter 4's account of the Dan Udyog Sahakari Sangh Limited cooperative industrial estate established in 1965, extends into the rural livelihood domain through agricultural marketing and credit cooperatives operating alongside the Self Help Group architecture discussed above, though comprehensive, disaggregated data on the current scale and membership of the territory's rural cooperative sector was not identified with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter.

12.5 Rural Infrastructure: PMGSY, Connectivity and Market Linkages

Rural road connectivity in the territory is supported through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the national flagship rural roads programme providing all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected rural habitations, extended to the territory alongside its broader internal road network discussed in Chapter 8, where Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's total internal road length of 866 kilometres was documented as substantially exceeding that of Daman and Diu districts, reflecting the district's much larger rural and forested hinterland requiring internal connectivity infrastructure (Invest India, 2026).

Given the territory's already comparatively strong performance on foundational rural infrastructure indicators documented elsewhere in this Framework, including its early, non-centrally-funded achievement of universal rural tap water coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission discussed in Chapter 10, this Framework assesses that the territory's broader rural infrastructure delivery capacity, including PMGSY road connectivity, likely benefits from the same underlying administrative effectiveness documented in that water sector achievement.

This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific PMGSY habitation connectivity completion status report with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation, and recommends the territory administration extend the same standard of transparent, quantified achievement reporting evident in its Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission performance, discussed in Chapter 10, to its PMGSY rural road connectivity programme specifically.

Market linkage infrastructure for the territory's rural agricultural and forest produce output, discussed in Chapters 3 and 7, connects directly to the TRIFED Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce and Van Dhan Yojana partnership discussed in Chapter 7, which provides a formal value chain and market access mechanism for the territory's tribal forest produce gatherers, alongside the horticultural open auction sale mechanism for chikoo and other produce discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the territory's primary sector. This Framework assesses these existing market linkage mechanisms as providing a reasonable foundational architecture for rural market access, though it recommends continued investment in cold chain and post-harvest storage infrastructure specifically serving the territory's rural producer base, building on the broader food processing and agro-processing policy support discussed in Chapter 3's treatment of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries' schemes extended to the territory.

12.6 Community-Based Development Institutions and Participatory Planning

Participatory rural development planning in the territory operates within the broader national Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan framework, a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions' governance capabilities across states and Union Territories, alongside the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, which aims to empower villagers to make choices and provides them with opportunities to exercise those choices through Member of Parliament-sponsored model village development, both extended nationally to the territory on the same basis as to India's states (Indiastat, 2025i; AICTE, 2026).

Given the territory's small population and compact rural geography, concentrated predominantly within Nagar Haveli taluka's tribal interior as discussed throughout this chapter, this Framework assesses that community-based participatory planning institutions within the territory benefit from the same scale advantage for administrative reach and community-level engagement discussed at several points elsewhere in this Framework, since a comparatively small number of Gram Panchayats and villages, concentrated within a



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well-defined geographic area, are, in principle, more tractable for intensive, participatory community engagement than the vastly larger and more dispersed rural populations governed by Panchayati Raj institutions in India's major agricultural states.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that rural development in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, while numerically small in absolute scale given the territory's compact rural population documented throughout this Framework, is served by a genuinely capable administrative architecture, evidenced concretely by the territory's early adoption of the SECURE digital sanctioning platform discussed in Section 12.1 and its inclusion within the national Cluster Facilitation Project discussed in Section 12.2. This administrative capability, combined with the specific, tribal-prioritised targeting of rural housing benefits documented in Section 12.3 and the promising women's Self Help Group livelihood architecture documented in Section 12.4, together suggest a rural development programme reasonably well matched to the territory's specific demographic and social justice priorities, discussed extensively in Chapter 7. The principal recommendation this Framework carries forward from this chapter is the need for more granular, publicly disclosed, scheme-specific performance data, particularly for MGNREGA and PMGSY, to enable the same standard of evidence-based tracking already achieved in the territory's water and sanitation sector, discussed in Chapter 10, to be extended across its full rural development programme portfolio. Chapter 13's discussion of environmental and natural resource governance, building directly on this chapter's treatment of the territory's forest-dependent tribal rural economy, and Chapter 18's discussion of agriculture and allied sectors, both connect closely to the rural development themes examined in this chapter.

CHAPTER 13: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Environmental and natural resource governance in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu must reconcile two structurally opposed realities documented throughout this Framework, an unusually forested, biodiverse Nagar Haveli hinterland supporting a substantial tribal population, discussed in Chapters 1 and 7, and one of India's most industrially dense small manufacturing clusters, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 4. This chapter examines the territory's environmental governance architecture across six sections, covering forest cover and wildlife conservation, land use and soil resources, water bodies and river ecosystem health, mining governance, pollution regulation, and coastal and marine resource management.

13.1 Forest Cover, Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

Forest cover data for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, compiled through the Forest Survey of India's India State of Forest Report 2019, provides the most authoritative and methodologically rigorous figure available for this chapter. Based on interpretation of IRS Resourcesat-2 LISS III satellite data from October 2017, the Forest Survey of India recorded the district's forest cover at 207.16 square kilometres, equivalent to 42.19 percent of the Union Territory's total geographical area (Forest Survey of India, 2019). This satellite-derived figure sits within the broader range of 41.6 to 43 percent forest cover discussed in Chapter 1 and confirms that the territory, despite its small size and industrial concentration, retains an exceptionally high proportion of forest cover relative to most industrially developed districts in India. The same report documents that the district's recorded forest area, as digitised from

official boundary records, covers 210.53 square kilometres, closely aligned with the satellite-measured forest cover figure, indicating that the great majority of the territory's officially designated forest land remains under actual, measurable forest canopy rather than having been degraded or diverted to non-forest use (Forest Survey of India, 2019).

Within this forest estate, the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary constitutes the territory's principal protected area, with area figures ranging from 91.39 to 97 square kilometres across different sources, representing between approximately 18.77 and 19 percent of the territory's total geographical area, an unusually high proportion of total territorial land area held under formal wildlife protection status relative to most Indian states and Union Territories (Wikipedia, 2025t; Learn UPSC, 2025). The sanctuary, governed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli Tourism and incorporating the Satmalia Deer Park and Vasona Lion Safari near Khanvel village, provides habitat for leopard, wildcat, striped hyena, fox, golden jackal, nilgai, four-horned antelope, sambar deer, and chital deer, alongside a diverse bird population including black drongo, bulbul, kingfisher, egret, hoopoe, mynah, heron, and red jungle fowl (Wikipedia, 2025t). In 2014, an additional eco-sensitive area was designated within a 100-metre buffer zone around the wildlife sanctuary, covering 26.57 square kilometres, extending the effective conservation footprint beyond the sanctuary's core protected boundary and providing a regulatory buffer against encroaching land use pressure from the territory's expanding industrial and urban development discussed throughout this Framework (Wikipedia, 2025t).

In Daman district, the Satmalia Wildlife Sanctuary, a separate protected area from the Dadra and Nagar Haveli sanctuary discussed above despite the similarity in name to the Satmalia Deer Park, actively participates in conservation projects safeguarding regional biodiversity, and is documented alongside other Daman heritage and natural attractions including the Madhuban Dam discussed in Chapter 1 and the Tribal Cultural Museum discussed further in Chapter 19's treatment of cultural heritage preservation (Incredible India, 2026). In Diu district, the Fudam Bird Sanctuary, established in 1991 and covering 2.18 square kilometres of marshland on Diu Island, provides critical habitat for migratory birds including flamingos, known locally as Surkhaab, alongside painted storks, paddyfield pipits, purple sunbirds, cattle egrets, grey plovers, clamorous reed warblers, striated herons, and red-necked phalaropes (Wikipedia, 2025u). This Fudam sanctuary is governed by Diu Tourism and represents the territory's principal wetland and coastal bird conservation asset, complementing the



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forest-focused wildlife sanctuary infrastructure documented above for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district.

Institutional responsibility for forest and wildlife governance rests with the territory's Department of Forest and Wildlife, whose stated mandate encompasses forest conservation, wildlife protection, afforestation, and biodiversity conservation, including plantation activities, soil and moisture conservation measures, and protection measures across both forest and revenue areas (Forest Department of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026). The department explicitly states its objective of increasing forest and tree cover outside formally designated forest areas by involving local communities in plantation activities and conducting awareness programmes, an approach that directly engages the territory's forest-dependent tribal population discussed extensively in Chapter 7 as active participants in conservation activity rather than treating forest governance and tribal livelihood as inherently competing interests (Forest Department of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026). The department's observance of Wildlife Week 2025 during the first week of October, with participation from schools and colleges across the territory, further indicates an active, ongoing institutional commitment to biodiversity awareness and conservation education within the territory's education system, discussed in Chapter 5 (Forest Department of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026).

13.2 Land Use Change, Soil Degradation and Land Resource Management

Land use dynamics within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are shaped decisively by the fundamental tension identified at the outset of this chapter, between the territory's substantial forest estate, documented in Section 13.1 at over 42 percent of total geographical area, and the intensive industrial and urban land use demands generated by the territory's dominant manufacturing economy, documented extensively in Chapters 3 and 4. The Online Consent Management and Monitoring System operated by the territory's Pollution Control Committee explicitly identifies this land constraint as a core environmental governance challenge, noting that the total geographical area of the Union Territories of Daman, Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli amounts to only 72, 40, and 600 square kilometres respectively, and that the non-availability of large tracts of land suitable for establishing heavy industries, combined with scattered human habitations across the territories, creates specific environmental management challenges distinct from those faced by larger, more spacious industrial regions (Pollution Control Committee, 2026).

This land scarcity has, over the decades of industrial development documented in Chapter 4, driven the concentration of the territory's manufacturing base into the more than 45 private industrial estates and three government industrial estates discussed in that chapter, a land use pattern that has, by necessity, kept the territory's industrial footprint spatially contained relative to its forest and agricultural land, helping to preserve the comparatively high forest cover percentage documented in Section 13.1 even as the territory's industrial output and export value, documented in Chapter 3, have grown substantially. This Framework assesses that this spatial containment of industrial land use, whether by deliberate planning design or simply by the physical land constraints the Pollution Control Committee itself identifies, represents an important, if under-celebrated, structural factor supporting the territory's continued relatively favourable forest cover outcomes documented in Section 13.1, even amid one of India's most industrially intensive small-territory manufacturing clusters.

Comprehensive, disaggregated soil degradation assessment data specific to the territory, including soil erosion rates, agricultural land degradation indices, or wasteland classification statistics of the kind compiled through the national Integrated Wastelands Development Programme discussed in Chapter 12's treatment of rural development schemes, was not identified with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, representing a further specific data gap this Framework flags for future institutional attention, particularly given the territory's high monsoon rainfall regime documented in Chapter 1, which, combined with the hilly and undulating terrain of Nagar Haveli documented in that same chapter, creates conditions conducive to soil erosion risk in areas where forest cover has been thinned or where agricultural practices do not adequately incorporate soil and water conservation measures, a concern the territory's own Forest Department explicitly identifies as part of its institutional mandate, discussed in Section 13.1.

13.3 Water Bodies, Wetlands and River Ecosystem Health

The Daman Ganga River system, established in Chapter 1 as the territory's dominant hydrological feature and identified by Britannica as the only navigable river in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, constitutes the single most significant water body requiring dedicated ecosystem health governance within the territory. The territory's Pollution Control Committee maintains a dedicated River Monitoring Data function, indicating institutional recognition of the need for ongoing water quality surveillance of this critical river system, which flows through the territory's dense industrial estates discussed in Chapter 4 before reaching the

Arabian Sea at Daman, a routing that places the river at direct risk of industrial effluent and urban wastewater contamination given the scale of manufacturing activity concentrated along its course (Pollution Control Committee, 2026).

This Framework did not identify a publicly disclosed, recent River Monitoring Data report with specific water quality parameters, such as biochemical oxygen demand, dissolved oxygen, or heavy metal contamination levels for the Daman Ganga, with sufficient recency and technical detail for direct citation in this chapter, representing a specific transparency gap given the river's evident environmental and public health significance to a territory whose dominant textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing sectors, documented in Chapter 3, carry recognised effluent discharge risks if inadequately regulated. This Framework recommends the territory's Pollution Control Committee publish its River Monitoring Data findings on a regular, publicly accessible basis, given the direct relevance of river water quality to both the ecological health discussed in this section and the liquid waste and sewerage treatment infrastructure priorities discussed in Chapter 10.

The Madhuban Reservoir, discussed in Chapter 1 as the territory's largest water storage structure and in Chapter 10 as the anchor of the territory's irrigation infrastructure, additionally functions as a wetland ecosystem supporting biodiversity beyond its direct water supply function, though this Framework was unable to identify a dedicated ecological assessment of the reservoir's wetland habitat value with sufficient recency for direct citation. Diu's Fudam Bird Sanctuary, discussed in Section 13.1, represents the territory's most clearly documented wetland ecosystem of significant conservation value, given its established role as critical habitat for migratory flamingos and other wetland bird species, and this Framework assesses continued protection of this marshland habitat as a priority given both its intrinsic biodiversity value and its contribution to the territory's ecotourism potential, discussed further in Chapter 19.

13.4 Mining and Mineral Resource Governance

Mining activity within Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu remains minimal, consistent with the assessment made in Chapter 3's treatment of the territory's secondary sector, reflecting the territory's small land area, its geology, and its land use pattern dominated by forest, agriculture, and concentrated industrial estate development, none of which support significant mineral extraction of the kind found in larger mineral-bearing Indian states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, or Chhattisgarh. This Framework did not identify evidence of any

significant, currently operating mining lease or mineral extraction operation within the territory's boundaries, and assesses mining and mineral resource governance as a minor component of the territory's overall environmental governance architecture relative to the forest, water, and industrial pollution domains that dominate this chapter's other sections.

Given this minimal mining footprint, this Framework does not identify specific mining governance reform priorities for the territory in the manner that would be appropriate for a mineral-rich state, and instead notes that any future mineral resource development within the territory, should such potential be identified through future geological surveys, would need to be evaluated with particular care given the territory's already constrained land availability, discussed in Section 13.2, and its substantial forest cover and wildlife sanctuary land, discussed in Section 13.1, both of which would likely present significant environmental and regulatory constraints on any prospective mining development within the territory's small geographical footprint.

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

Pollution regulation within the territory is administered by the Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Pollution Control Committee, the territorial body constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, functioning as the territory's equivalent of the State Pollution Control Boards that operate in India's full states, and reporting to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for matters not covered under the territory's own regulatory authority (Environment Knowledge Hub, 2026; Pollution Control Committee, 2026). The committee's Online Consent Management and Monitoring System provides digital infrastructure through which industries within the territory can obtain and renew the Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate approvals required under national pollution control legislation, with the committee explicitly noting its ambition to develop a comprehensive industrial database accessible online, intended to create marketing opportunities for local industrialists through e-commerce and information technology integration, an objective that illustrates the committee's dual regulatory and industrial facilitation orientation (Pollution Control Committee, 2026).

Given the territory's substantial concentration of plastics, chemical, and textile manufacturing, documented extensively in Chapter 3 as encompassing an estimated 28 percent of India's total plastic production and 80 percent of the nation's polyester and

texturised yarn output, industrial air and water pollution regulation carries particular and disproportionate significance for this small territory relative to its land area and population, since the pollution control burden associated with hosting such a nationally significant concentration of chemical-intensive manufacturing must be managed within a geographical footprint of only 603 square kilometres, documented in Chapter 1, a considerably more spatially constrained regulatory environment than most Indian states hosting comparable industrial output would face. This Framework did not identify publicly disclosed, disaggregated ambient air quality index data, water pollution compliance statistics, or noise pollution monitoring results specific to the territory's industrial zones with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter, and recommends the Pollution Control Committee expand its public disclosure practices to include regular, standardised Air Quality Index reporting for the territory's principal industrial and urban centres, Silvassa, Daman, and Diu, building on the committee's already established Online Consent Management and Monitoring System digital infrastructure discussed above.

Soil pollution risk within the territory, linked to potential industrial effluent discharge, hazardous waste disposal practices discussed in Chapter 10, and agricultural chemical use, was not separately assessed with dedicated, territory-specific data identified for this chapter, representing a further specific gap in the territory's environmental monitoring and public disclosure architecture that this Framework recommends be addressed as a priority, given the direct linkage between soil quality and both the agricultural productivity discussed in Chapter 3 and the forest ecosystem health discussed in Section 13.1 of this chapter.

13.6 Coastal and Marine Resource Management

Coastal and marine resource management applies specifically to Daman and Diu districts, given their direct Arabian Sea coastline discussed in Chapter 1, and connects closely to the fisheries sector discussed in Chapter 3 and the Blue Port infrastructure development discussed in Chapter 8's treatment of maritime and port infrastructure. Coastal Regulation Zone governance, administered under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Coastal Regulation Zone Notification framework, applies to both Daman and Diu's coastal areas, and the territory's own institutional documentation confirms the existence of a District Disaster and Coastal Zone Management Authority, evidenced by minutes from its seventeenth meeting held in August 2011, indicating an established, if not always publicly

well-documented, institutional mechanism for coastal zone regulatory oversight within the territory (Department of Environment and Forest, U.T. Administration, 2026).

Fudam Bird Sanctuary's marshland ecosystem, discussed in Section 13.1, represents a specific coastal and wetland conservation asset requiring continued protection given its critical habitat function for migratory birds, while the broader Daman and Diu coastline supports the fisheries sector discussed in Chapter 3, including both inshore and deep-sea fishing activity, and is positioned for potential modernisation and expansion under the India-Food and Agriculture Organization Blue Port partnership announced in September 2025, discussed in Chapter 8. This Framework assesses that continued coastal ecosystem health, encompassing mangrove conservation where present, water quality maintenance in coastal and estuarine zones, and careful regulation of coastal construction and tourism infrastructure development discussed further in Chapter 19, will be essential to sustaining both the fisheries livelihoods and the tourism economy that together constitute a significant share of Daman and Diu's district-level economic activity, documented in Chapter 3.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu possesses a genuinely commendable environmental resource base for a territory of its small size and industrial intensity, evidenced concretely by the Forest Survey of India's satellite-verified forest cover figure of over 42 percent for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, its substantial wildlife sanctuary and eco-sensitive zone coverage, and its ecologically significant coastal wetland assets in Diu. At the same time, this chapter has identified a consistent pattern of limited public data disclosure regarding pollution monitoring, river water quality, air quality, and soil health, a pattern this Framework attributes to the same broader statistical and institutional transparency gap affecting smaller Union Territories relative to major states, documented throughout this Framework, rather than to any evident absence of underlying institutional capacity, given the Pollution Control Committee's demonstrated digital infrastructure and the Forest Department's active, ongoing conservation programming documented in this chapter. Chapter 14's discussion of climate change and disaster risk, and Chapter 18's discussion of agriculture and allied sectors, both connect directly to the environmental resource themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the territory's continued capacity to balance its high-value industrial economy against its ecologically significant forest, river, and coastal resource base.



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CHAPTER 14: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

Climate change governance in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu presents a genuinely mixed institutional picture, one this Framework documents transparently rather than glossing over, since the territory has achieved meaningful, health-specific climate adaptation planning even as it remains among a small number of states and Union Territories that had not finalised a comprehensive State Action Plan on Climate Change at the time of this Framework's preparation. This chapter examines the territory's climate vulnerability profile, its climate planning architecture, its disaster risk profile, its institutional disaster risk reduction mechanisms, its post-disaster response framework, and its green economy transition prospects across six sections.

14.1 State Climate Vulnerability and Risk Profile

The territory's fundamental climate vulnerability profile is shaped by the same geographic and hydrological characteristics established in Chapter 1, namely its coastal exposure in Daman and Diu districts, its high monsoon rainfall regime in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's hilly Nagar Haveli terrain, and its dependence on the Daman Ganga River system, which drains through the territory's dense industrial and urban core before reaching the Arabian Sea. The territory's own health-focused climate adaptation planning document describes Dadra and Nagar Haveli's terrain as hilly, particularly toward the North-East and East where it is surrounded by ranges of the Sahyadri Mountains, or Western Hills, with the terrain intersected by the River Daman Ganga and its three tributaries, the river itself rising in hills 64 kilometres from the western coast before discharging into the Arabian Sea at the port of Daman (National Centre for Disease Control, 2024a). This combination of hilly upper catchment terrain and a comparatively short, steep river course to the coast creates conditions conducive to flash flooding during intense monsoon rainfall events, a vulnerability compounded by the dense concentration of industrial estates and urban settlement along the river's lower course through Silvassa and into Daman, discussed in Chapters 4 and 8.

Rainfall variability represents a further, independently documented dimension of the territory's climate vulnerability. A National Maritime Foundation analysis of India's climate change governance approach specifically cites Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat, as having received excess rainfall during the

first two months of the southwest monsoon in 2022, illustrating the territory's exposure to increasingly variable and, in some years, excessive monsoon precipitation, a pattern consistent with the broader national finding that climate change is driving increased variation in the geographical distribution of India's monsoon rainfall (National Maritime Foundation, 2022). This documented instance of excess rainfall exposure sits alongside the territory's already high baseline annual rainfall, discussed in Chapter 1 at between 2,000 and 3,000 millimetres for Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, suggesting that the territory's climate risk profile is weighted more heavily toward flood and excess precipitation risk than toward drought risk, a materially different vulnerability profile than that facing the semi-arid and drought-prone central Indian states discussed in the same national analysis.

Coastal vulnerability specific to Daman and Diu districts, given their direct Arabian Sea exposure discussed in Chapter 1, encompasses risks including sea level rise, coastal erosion, and increased cyclone intensity associated with a warming Arabian Sea, consistent with the broader pattern of climate risk documented for India's western coastal states and territories. This Framework did not identify a dedicated, quantified coastal vulnerability assessment specific to Daman and Diu's shoreline with sufficient recency and technical detail for direct citation in this chapter, a data gap this Framework recommends be addressed given the direct relevance of coastal climate risk to the fisheries livelihoods discussed in Chapter 3 and the tourism economy discussed in Chapter 19, both of which depend substantially on the continued physical and ecological stability of the territory's coastline.

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

This Framework documents, with full transparency, an important and specific institutional gap in the territory's climate governance architecture. Multiple independent sources reviewing India's national State Action Plan on Climate Change programme, established following the 2009 directive calling on states and Union Territories to prepare climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies consistent with the National Action Plan on Climate Change, explicitly list Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, alongside Goa and Ladakh, among the small number of states and Union Territories that had not finalised and placed in the public domain a comprehensive State Action Plan on Climate Change as of the most recent reviews identified for this chapter, with 33 of the then-applicable jurisdictions having completed this process (Elets eGov, 2021; Centre for

Science and Environment, 2018). This finding, while specific to the general, all-sector SAPCC instrument, should not be read as indicating a complete absence of climate planning capacity within the territory, since, as discussed below, the territory has in fact completed a comprehensive, sector-specific climate adaptation plan for its health sector.

The territory's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare-supported National Centre for Disease Control has facilitated the preparation of a dedicated State Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health, known as SAPCCHH, for the territory, administered under the chairmanship of the Advisor to the Honourable Administrator of the Union Territory, with the Secretary of Health serving as Co-Chairman, the Director of Medical and Health Services serving as Member Secretary, the Mission Director of the National Health Mission serving as a member, and the Regional Director of Health and Family Welfare in Ahmedabad also serving as a member (National Centre for Disease Control, 2024a). This SAPCCHH document explicitly highlights the current and future vulnerabilities to climate change within the Union Territory, the associated disease burden, and the initiatives to be undertaken to reduce that disease burden while developing a climate-responsive and sustainable healthcare ecosystem, with the document further indicating that district-specific action plans will also be prepared as a complementary, more granular planning instrument (National Centre for Disease Control, 2024a). The SAPCCHH's specific action items include creating awareness at healthcare facilities and community level, capacity building, developing village-level health adaptation plans related to air quality and other climate-sensitive exposures, and preparing Information, Education, and Communication materials disseminated through Urban Health and Nutrition Day meetings, indicating a genuinely operational, community-engaged implementation approach rather than a purely aspirational planning document (National Centre for Disease Control, 2024b).

This Framework assesses that the territory's completion of a robust, health-sector-specific climate adaptation plan, even in the continued absence of a comprehensive, all-sector SAPCC, represents a meaningful but partial institutional achievement, one that leaves significant sectoral gaps, particularly for agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure resilience planning, discussed elsewhere in this chapter, without the same level of dedicated, formally endorsed climate adaptation strategy that the health sector now benefits from. This Framework's clearest and most direct recommendation arising from this chapter is that the territory administration prioritise the completion and public release of a comprehensive, all-sector State Action Plan on Climate Change, building directly on the institutional and

methodological foundation already established through the SAPCCHH process, and extending that same rigour of vulnerability assessment and sectoral adaptation planning to water resources, discussed in Chapter 10, agriculture, discussed in Chapter 3, coastal ecosystems, discussed in Chapter 13, and the territory's broader infrastructure base, discussed in Chapters 8 and 9.

14.3 Disaster Risk Profile: Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability Mapping

The territory's disaster risk profile is dominated by hydro-meteorological hazards, principally flood and cyclone risk, given the coastal and riverine exposure discussed in Section 14.1. The territory administration's own State Disaster Management Authority notice board, reviewed for this chapter, documents active, recurring institutional attention to monsoon-related hazards, including a specific order regarding preparedness for the 2022 monsoon season addressing cyclone, flood, and heavy rainfall risk, indicating an established, functioning institutional mechanism for seasonal disaster risk monitoring and advance preparedness communication (State Disaster Management Authority, U.T. Administration, 2026).

At the district level, Dadra and Nagar Haveli's own Disaster Management Plan, prepared under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, explicitly comprises a risk and vulnerability assessment of disasters specific to the district, alongside provisions for prevention and mitigation planning, the mainstreaming of disaster risk considerations into development plans and projects, capacity building and preparedness measures, a clear articulation of the roles and responsibilities of each government department and other stakeholders, risk transfer mechanisms, and effective programme management for future disasters, with the plan further providing for annual review and updating (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District Administration, 2026). This annual review provision is a notably strong institutional design feature, ensuring the district's disaster risk assessment remains a living document responsive to evolving hazard patterns rather than a static, one-time planning exercise, an approach this Framework assesses favourably relative to disaster management plans in some other Indian jurisdictions that are updated only infrequently.

The territory's own characterisation of its disaster management approach, articulated in its Dadra and Nagar Haveli Disaster Management Policy, describes an amalgamation of comprehensive disaster management approaches seeking to achieve the right balance of prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response, institutionalised as a continuous disaster management continuum across all spheres of governance (Dadra and Nagar Haveli District

Administration, 2026). This articulated policy philosophy, emphasising an integrated continuum rather than treating disaster response as a standalone, reactive function separate from routine development planning, aligns with contemporary international best practice in disaster risk reduction, as embodied in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and represents a genuine institutional strength for the territory even as this Framework has identified the more general climate adaptation planning gap discussed in Section 14.2.

14.4 Disaster Risk Reduction: Institutional Mechanisms and Preparedness

Institutional disaster risk reduction architecture within the territory operates through the State Disaster Management Authority, established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, on the same statutory basis as the equivalent authorities operating in India's full states, discussed in the comparative reference to Maharashtra's State Disaster Management Authority reviewed for this chapter, which is similarly responsible for laying down policies and plans for disaster management, approving the State Disaster Management Plan, coordinating its implementation, and recommending the provision of funds for mitigation and preparedness measures (Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority, 2026). This Framework assesses that the territory's State Disaster Management Authority likely performs an analogous institutional function within the Union Territory's own governance structure, discussed in Chapter 1, though scaled appropriately to the territory's smaller administrative footprint and its Administrator-led rather than elected-government governance model.

Complementing the State Disaster Management Authority, the territory maintains a dedicated Fire and Emergency Services department, whose institutional documentation specifically addresses flood response protocols, indicating operational, on-the-ground emergency response capacity extending beyond the policy and planning functions of the Disaster Management Authority itself into direct, first-responder flood management capability (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Fire and Emergency Services, 2026). This combination of a policy-setting State Disaster Management Authority, a district-level Disaster Management Plan with the annual review provision discussed in Section 14.3, and an operational Fire and Emergency Services capability represents a reasonably complete, three-tiered institutional disaster risk reduction architecture for a territory of this size, consistent with the broader pattern this Framework has documented across several other sectors, in which the territory's small scale supports comparatively tight institutional



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coordination even where individual programme components, such as the comprehensive SAPCC discussed in Section 14.2, remain incomplete.

This Framework did not identify a specific, quantified capacity assessment of the territory's disaster response infrastructure, including emergency shelter capacity, early warning system coverage, or first-responder training levels, with sufficient recency and technical detail for direct citation in this chapter, and recommends that the territory administration publish such a capacity assessment to complement the strong institutional and policy architecture already documented in this section, ensuring that the territory's demonstrated planning capability is matched by an equally well-documented and continuously monitored operational response capacity.

14.5 Post-Disaster Response, Relief and Reconstruction Framework

Post-disaster response and relief in the territory operates within the national disaster relief financing architecture, encompassing the State Disaster Response Fund and, for disasters of severe magnitude exceeding the territory's own response capacity, the National Disaster Response Fund, both discussed in Chapter 2's treatment of Finance Commission-linked disaster funding mechanisms extended to the territory through its Union Budget Demand for Grants, discussed in that chapter as covering disaster management among its funded departmental heads.

Given the annual review provision built into the territory's Disaster Management Plan, discussed in Section 14.3, and the demonstrated institutional coordination evident in the territory's monsoon preparedness orders discussed in that same section, this Framework assesses that the territory's post-disaster response and relief framework likely benefits from the same institutional coherence documented elsewhere in this chapter, though a standalone, detailed post-disaster reconstruction case study or after-action review specific to a recent significant weather event within the territory was not identified with sufficient recency and detail for direct citation in this chapter. This Framework recommends the territory administration publish after-action reviews following significant monsoon or flood events, building on the district's own stated commitment to annual disaster plan review discussed in Section 14.3, to ensure that lessons learned from actual disaster response experience are systematically incorporated into the territory's evolving disaster management planning framework, rather than relying solely on ex ante risk assessment without corresponding ex post performance evaluation.

14.6 Green Economy Transition: Opportunities and Structural Challenges

The territory's green economy transition prospects are anchored substantially in the renewable energy expansion trajectory discussed in Chapter 9, where the territory's ambitious target of expanding renewable energy capacity from approximately 52 megawatts to 500 megawatts, guided by the territory's Vision 2047 strategic framework, represents the single most significant quantified green economy commitment identified for the territory in the course of preparing this Framework. This renewable energy expansion, building on Diu's already internationally and nationally recognised achievement of meeting daytime power demand entirely through solar generation, discussed in Chapter 9, provides the territory with a credible, evidence-based foundation for continued green economy transition, distinguishing it from many jurisdictions where green economy commitments remain largely aspirational rather than grounded in demonstrated implementation capacity.

At the same time, this Framework has documented throughout this chapter and the preceding chapters of this Framework a structural tension the territory's green economy transition must navigate, namely the continued dominance of energy- and chemical-intensive textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing within the territory's economic base, discussed extensively in Chapter 3, industries whose production processes carry inherent carbon intensity and environmental footprint considerations that a green economy transition strategy must address directly rather than treating renewable energy expansion and industrial decarbonisation as separate, unconnected policy tracks. This Framework recommends that the territory's forthcoming comprehensive climate action planning, discussed in Section 14.2's recommendation for a full-sector SAPCC, explicitly integrate industrial decarbonisation pathways specific to the territory's dominant textile, plastics, and chemical manufacturing sub-sectors, potentially linked to the energy efficiency and demand-side management priorities discussed in Chapter 9, to ensure the territory's green economy transition addresses its full economic base rather than focusing renewable energy expansion in isolation from the industrial sector's own decarbonisation needs.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment of the territory's climate change and ecological security posture is one of genuine, evidence-based strength in specific, operational domains, disaster risk reduction institutional architecture, health-sector climate adaptation planning, and renewable energy deployment, set against a clearly identified and specifically actionable gap in comprehensive, all-sector climate action



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planning. Completing this comprehensive SAPCC, building directly on the territory's demonstrated SAPCCHH methodology and institutional coordination capacity documented throughout this chapter, represents the single most consequential and readily achievable climate governance reform available to the territory administration over the near term, one that would bring the territory's climate planning architecture into full alignment with the strong operational and sectoral achievements already documented across this chapter and the broader environmental governance framework examined in Chapter 13. Chapter 15's discussion of administrative governance reform, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap, both provide institutional pathways through which this specific, high-priority climate planning recommendation might be operationalised over the period covered by this Framework.

CHAPTER 15: ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE REFORM

Administrative governance in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu operates through a structure fundamentally distinct from that of a full Indian state, anchored by an appointed Administrator rather than an elected government, and staffed substantially through cadres shared with Delhi and India's other smaller Union Territories rather than through a dedicated territorial civil service of the kind maintained by states. This chapter examines the territory's administrative governance architecture across seven sections, spanning the structure of state administration, anti-corruption mechanisms, judicial administration, police modernisation, regulatory governance, red-tapism reduction, and civil service strength.

15.1 Structure of State Administration and Inter-Departmental Coordination

The territory's administrative apex, as established in Chapter 1, rests with the Administrator, Praful Khoda Patel, who assumed office on 26 January 2020 as the inaugural Administrator of the newly formed merged Union Territory, having previously served as the final separate Administrator of both Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu prior to their merger, and

who additionally holds the Administrator's post for Lakshadweep on an additional charge basis since December 2020 (Wikipedia, 2025n; Wikipedia, 2025v). This dual-charge arrangement, in which a single Administrator oversees two geographically separate Union Territories simultaneously, is a distinctive feature of India's smaller Union Territory administrative architecture, reflecting the comparatively modest scale of executive oversight required relative to a full state government, though it does raise legitimate questions regarding the depth of sustained administrative attention any single Administrator can devote to each territory under their charge, a consideration this Framework flags as relevant to the territory's continued governance effectiveness.

Below the Administrator, the territory's administrative machinery is organised through a Secretariat headquartered in Daman, discussed in Chapter 1, staffed by Indian Administrative Service officers holding specific departmental charges. The territory's official list of IAS officer charge allocations documents a structure in which senior officers simultaneously hold multiple departmental responsibilities, a pattern reflecting the territory's small administrative scale discussed throughout this Framework. This documentation shows, for example, an Advisor to the Administrator holding responsibility across Home affairs, including Police, Fire Services, and Prisons, alongside separate officer charges spanning Finance, Health and Family Welfare, and district-level Collector responsibilities for both Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, with individual officers frequently holding additional charges as Managing Director of the territory's power corporation, discussed in Chapter 9, Chairman of the Staff Selection Board, Commissioner-cum-Secretary for Tribal Welfare, discussed in Chapter 7, and Special Secretary for Forests, Environment and Wildlife, discussed in Chapter 13 (Personnel Department, U.T. Administration, 2026). This pattern of multiple, overlapping charges held by a comparatively small pool of senior officers is a direct structural consequence of the territory's small population and administrative scale, discussed throughout this Framework, and represents both an efficiency advantage, in terms of reduced administrative overhead, and a potential capacity constraint, since individual officers must divide their attention across a wide span of substantively distinct policy domains.

The territory's departmental structure, as catalogued through the national Integrated Government Online Directory, spans a comprehensive range of functional departments including Information Technology, Labour and Employment, Legal Metrology, Municipal Corporation, Official Language, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Planning and Statistics, Police, Pollution Control Committee, and Rural Development, among others,

indicating that despite its small administrative scale, the territory maintains a functionally complete departmental architecture covering the full range of governance domains examined throughout this Framework (Integrated Government Online Directory, 2026). This Framework assesses that the territory's departmental completeness, evident in this directory listing, combined with the demonstrated digital administrative capability documented in Chapter 12's discussion of the SECURE online sanctioning platform, together indicate a genuinely functional, if leanly staffed, administrative apparatus capable of covering the full breadth of governance functions this Framework has examined across its preceding fourteen chapters.

15.2 Anti-Corruption Framework: Lokayukta, Vigilance and Enforcement

Anti-corruption institutional architecture within Union Territories without legislature, including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, differs structurally from that of full states, since the Lokayukta institution, an anti-corruption ombudsman established under state-specific legislation in most Indian states following the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, is fundamentally designed around investigating complaints against elected state ministers and legislators, officials who do not exist within this territory's Administrator-led governance model, discussed throughout this Framework. This Framework did not identify evidence of a dedicated, standalone Lokayukta institution specifically established for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, a finding consistent with the territory's non-legislature Union Territory status rather than indicating any specific institutional deficiency relative to comparable Union Territories.

In place of a Lokayukta, the territory's vigilance and anti-corruption oversight operates through the standard Central Vigilance Commission architecture applicable to central government employees and officials serving in Union Territories, combined with the territory's own internal vigilance mechanisms operating under the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department documented in Section 15.1. A specific, notable institutional accountability mechanism identified for this Framework is the Police Complaint Authority, referenced in the territory's IAS officer charge allocation list discussed in Section 15.1, which provides a dedicated grievance and complaint redressal channel specifically for allegations against the territory's police force, discussed further in Section 15.4 (Personnel Department, U.T. Administration, 2026). This Framework did not identify comprehensive, publicly disclosed statistics on vigilance case registration, disposal rates, or corruption

conviction outcomes specific to the territory with sufficient recency for direct citation, and recommends the territory administration publish an annual vigilance and anti-corruption transparency report, building on the existing Police Complaint Authority institutional foundation, to strengthen public confidence in the territory's anti-corruption enforcement architecture.

15.3 Legal and Judicial Administration: Pendency, Access and Reform

Judicial administration in the territory, as established in Chapter 1, falls under the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court, currently led by Chief Justice Alok Aradhe, extending the same judicial oversight and appellate structure to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu that applies to Maharashtra and Goa, the other jurisdictions falling under the Bombay High Court's territorial jurisdiction (Wikipedia, 2025¹). This arrangement, in which the territory does not maintain its own dedicated High Court but instead falls under an external, larger state's High Court jurisdiction, mirrors the pattern documented in Chapter 5 regarding the territory's higher education affiliation with neighbouring Gujarat universities, reflecting a consistent institutional approach in which the territory, given its small scale, integrates with larger neighbouring judicial and educational institutions rather than establishing wholly independent, dedicated territorial institutions of comparable scale.

Below the High Court level, the territory maintains its own District and Sessions Courts and subordinate judicial infrastructure within Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu districts, administering both civil and criminal matters arising within the territory, including the POCSO Act matters discussed in Chapter 7's treatment of child protection. This Framework did not identify comprehensive, disaggregated case pendency statistics, average case disposal time, or judicial vacancy data specific to the territory's subordinate judiciary with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner disaggregated institutional reporting available for this small Union Territory relative to major states, discussed throughout this Framework. This Framework recommends the territory administration, working with the Bombay High Court's registry, publish disaggregated case pendency and disposal statistics specific to the territory's subordinate courts, to enable more precise tracking of access to justice outcomes for the territory's population, discussed throughout this Framework's treatment of social justice themes in Chapter 7.

15.4 Police Modernisation and Internal Security Management

Policing in the territory is administered through the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Police, formed in 2020 through the merger of the formerly separate Daman and Diu Police, established in 1961 following India's annexation of the former Portuguese territories, and the equivalent Dadra and Nagar Haveli police force, both consolidated under a single command structure following the territory's broader administrative merger discussed throughout this Framework (Wikipedia, 2025w; Wikipedia, 2025x). The merged force's headquarters is situated in Daman, with a Deputy Inspector General of Police serving as the overall commanding officer for the territory's entire police force (Police Department, U.T. Administration, 2026).

The territory's police force is organised into three Police Districts, co-terminous with the territory's three administrative districts discussed throughout this Framework, further divided into three Sub-Divisions and seven Police Stations, including three specifically designated Coastal Police Stations serving Daman and Diu's maritime and coastal security functions, discussed in Chapter 13's treatment of coastal and marine resource management, all operating across the territory's compact 603 square kilometre geographical area (Police Department, U.T. Administration, 2026). This dedicated coastal policing infrastructure, comprising three of the territory's seven total police stations, reflects the particular security and law enforcement priority the territory administration places on its Arabian Sea coastline, discussed in Chapters 1, 8, and 13, an appropriate allocation given the fisheries, port, and tourism activity concentrated along that coastline.

The territory's police officer cadre draws substantially on the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Police Service, abbreviated DANIPS, a specialised Group B civil service cadre established in 1972 specifically to provide policing leadership across India's smaller Union Territories, recruited directly through the national Civil Services Examination and administered under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' Union Territories Division (Wikipedia, 2025y). This shared police service cadre model, spanning Delhi and four smaller Union Territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, represents a further clear illustration of the territory's structural integration with the broader national Union Territory administrative architecture, rather than maintaining a wholly independent, dedicated territorial police leadership cadre of the kind found in India's full states through their own state police services. The territory's

own police department documentation describes its force as having undergone tremendous transformation in recent years toward becoming a professional, proactive, efficient, and dynamic police force, evidenced by ongoing community engagement programming including child safety awareness initiatives such as the Sparsh Ki Pathshala programme for girl students addressing appropriate and inappropriate touch, alongside active enforcement operations including illegal liquor seizures reflecting the territory's specific non-dry status discussed in Chapter 3 (Police Department, U.T. Administration, 2026).

15.5 Regulatory Governance: Quality, Consistency and Independence

Regulatory governance within the territory spans the sector-specific regulatory bodies examined throughout this Framework, including the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission discussed in Chapter 9's treatment of tariff policy, the Pollution Control Committee discussed extensively in Chapter 13, and the territory's Legal Metrology, or Weights and Measures, Department, documented in the Integrated Government Online Directory's departmental listing discussed in Section 15.1, which oversees fair trade practice and measurement standards compliance across the territory's substantial industrial and commercial base, discussed in Chapters 3 and 4.

This Framework assesses that regulatory governance within the territory benefits from the same national institutional architecture that governs regulatory quality across India's states and Union Territories more broadly, including the sector-specific national regulators, such as the Bureau of Energy Efficiency discussed in Chapter 9, that extend their regulatory jurisdiction uniformly to the territory. At the territorial level specifically, the compactness of the territory's regulatory apparatus, evident in the multiple overlapping departmental charges documented in Section 15.1, creates both efficiency advantages and a potential risk of regulatory capture or insufficient institutional separation between promotional and regulatory functions, particularly given the territory's demonstrated, and in many respects laudable, emphasis on investment facilitation and ease of doing business, discussed extensively in Chapter 4. This Framework recommends the territory administration periodically review its institutional architecture to ensure appropriate separation between the promotional functions exercised through bodies such as the Single Window System discussed in Chapter 4, and the regulatory oversight functions exercised through bodies such as the Pollution Control Committee discussed in Chapter 13, to preserve regulatory independence and credibility even as the territory continues its strong, demonstrated commitment to investor facilitation.

15.6 Reduction of Red-tapism: Simplification and Way Forward

The territory's most clearly documented and successful red-tapism reduction achievement is the Single Window System for industrial clearances, discussed extensively in Chapter 4, which consolidates the multiple regulatory approvals required to establish and operate industrial units within the territory into a single digital interface, a genuinely significant administrative simplification relative to the fragmented, department-by-department clearance processes that continue to characterise investment facilitation in several larger Indian states, as this Framework noted in that chapter. This achievement, combined with the SECURE digital sanctioning platform for rural works discussed in Chapter 12, together illustrate a consistent, demonstrated institutional pattern of the territory administration prioritising digital simplification of administrative processes across multiple distinct policy domains, spanning both industrial investment facilitation and rural development scheme administration.

Building on this demonstrated capability, this Framework recommends the territory administration extend the same digital simplification approach evident in the Single Window System and SECURE platform to additional administrative domains examined throughout this Framework, including the vigilance and anti-corruption transparency reporting recommended in Section 15.2, the judicial case pendency tracking recommended in Section 15.3, and the broader municipal service delivery transparency recommended in Chapter 11's treatment of urban local body capacity. Given the territory's demonstrated technical capability in this domain, evident across multiple sectors examined throughout this Framework, this Framework assesses that further red-tapism reduction, extending beyond the already strong industrial clearance and rural works domains into these additional governance functions, represents a readily achievable, low-cost administrative reform priority for the territory over the near term.

15.7 Civil Service Strength: Vacancy Rates and Training Institutions

Civil service staffing in the territory draws on a combination of the DANICS cadre, the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Civil Service, a Group B civil service established in 1992 specifically to staff the administrative functions of India's smaller Union Territories, alongside directly recruited Indian Administrative Service officers holding senior charges discussed in Section 15.1, and locally recruited territorial government employees serving in departmental and technical roles

across the functional departments catalogued in that same section (Wikipedia, 2025z). The DANICS cadre, structurally parallel to the DANIPS police service cadre discussed in Section 15.4, recorded a total employee strength of 208 officers as of 2016 across its full jurisdiction spanning Delhi and the four smaller Union Territories it serves, a relatively modest cadre size reflecting the specialised, limited-scale administrative function this shared civil service performs relative to the much larger Indian Administrative Service and state civil service cadres that staff India's full states (Wikipedia, 2025z).

Comprehensive, disaggregated civil service vacancy rate data specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, comparable to the detailed vacancy statistics increasingly published by several Indian states through their own public service commissions, was not identified with sufficient recency and granularity for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner disaggregated administrative reporting available for this small Union Territory, documented throughout this Framework. Training institution infrastructure specific to the territory's civil service, distinct from the shared DANICS and DANIPS training architecture administered centrally by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, was similarly not identified with sufficient detail for direct citation, though the territory's demonstrated administrative capability across the multiple digital governance and investment facilitation domains documented throughout this chapter suggests a reasonably well-functioning underlying training and capacity development architecture, even in the absence of standalone, publicly disclosed training institution documentation specific to the territory.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment of the territory's administrative governance architecture is one of a lean, functionally complete, and in several specific domains, genuinely innovative administrative apparatus, evidenced concretely by the Single Window System and SECURE platform achievements discussed in Section 15.6, operating within the structural constraints inherent to a Union Territory without its own legislature, discussed throughout this Framework. The principal recommendations arising from this chapter, spanning vigilance transparency reporting, judicial pendency disclosure, civil service vacancy reporting, and continued regulatory independence safeguarding, are consistent with the broader data transparency theme this Framework has identified across nearly every preceding chapter, and their implementation would further strengthen an administrative foundation that already compares favourably, in terms of demonstrated digital governance capability, with several larger and more resource-rich Indian



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state administrations. Chapter 16's discussion of technology-enabled service delivery, building directly on the digital governance achievements documented in this chapter, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap, both extend the administrative governance themes examined in this chapter into the territory's forward-looking institutional development strategy.

CHAPTER 16: TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED SERVICE DELIVERY

Technology-enabled governance represents one of the more genuinely well-documented strengths of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu's administrative architecture, building directly on the digital simplification achievements already examined in Chapters 4, 12, and 15, including the Single Window System for industrial clearances and the SECURE platform for rural works sanctioning. This chapter examines the territory's digital infrastructure and e-governance architecture across six sections, spanning broadband connectivity, digital public infrastructure, citizen service delivery, data governance, cybersecurity, and emerging technology adoption.

16.1 Digital Infrastructure: Broadband, Optical Fibre and Connectivity Coverage

The territory's core digital infrastructure is anchored by the National Informatics Centre, which maintains a dedicated presence at the Union Territory headquarters in Daman with a staff strength of eight personnel, including a State Informatics Officer, providing the technical backbone for the territory's digital governance ecosystem (National Informatics Centre, 2026). This NIC office provides core services including video conferencing, NICNET connectivity, email, SMS, and web hosting infrastructure to the territory administration, supported by 100 megabits per second redundant connectivity lines through both RailTel and BSNL, ensuring smooth and hassle-free network connectivity at the territory headquarters (National Informatics Centre, 2026). This redundant, dual-provider connectivity architecture represents a genuinely robust technical foundation for a territory of this size, reducing single-point-of-failure risk in the territory's core government network infrastructure.



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Beyond the NIC's own network, the territory participates in the national State Wide Area Network, or SWAN, architecture, a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology programme providing closed user group connectivity linking government offices across states and Union Territories to their respective State Data Centres, with the territory's SWAN implementation confirmed as functional and connected to this broader national digital government backbone, in contrast to a small number of other jurisdictions, including Jammu and Kashmir and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where SWAN implementation remained pending at the time of the referenced national Digital India report (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, 2024). This confirmed SWAN connectivity places the territory's core government network infrastructure on a comparable technical footing to India's more digitally advanced states, a notable achievement for a small Union Territory administration operating with the comparatively lean staffing resources documented throughout Chapter 15.

Citizen-facing digital access infrastructure within the territory is further supported through the national Common Service Centres scheme, with dedicated CSC networks confirmed as operational separately for both the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and the Daman and Diu components of the merged territory, providing last-mile digital service access points, including Aadhaar demographic updation services, for residents across the territory's three districts (CSC India, 2026). This CSC network, combined with the territory's broader digital infrastructure discussed throughout this section, provides a reasonably comprehensive digital access architecture spanning both the government-to-government connectivity layer through SWAN and NICNET, and the citizen-facing access layer through the CSC network, an important distinction for assessing genuine digital inclusion rather than merely back-office digitisation.

16.2 e-Governance Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure

The territory's e-governance strategy is formally articulated through its dedicated Information Technology Policy, released in 2019 and covering the policy period 2019 to 2024, administered by the territory's Department of Information Technology, whose stated mission is to enforce the territory's position as an attractive destination for the IT and IT-enabled Services industry, enhance citizen services through an e-governance and m-governance model, and give special focus to startups and budding entrepreneurs within the territory (Department of Information Technology, U.T. Administration, 2026). This IT Policy 2019-24 explicitly connects the territory's digital governance ambitions to its broader investment



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promotion strategy discussed in Chapter 4, reflecting the same industrial-investment-oriented policy philosophy that has shaped the territory's Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Scheme discussed extensively in that chapter, now extended specifically into the technology and IT services sector.

The Department of Information Technology's core institutional function, according to its own documentation, centres on concentrating over the core Information Technology infrastructure and e-governance projects flowing from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Digital India programme, including various Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan, while providing guidance on technical matters to individual departments, vetting IT projects, and steering departments toward achieving the territory's overall IT Roadmap (Department of Information Technology, U.T. Administration, 2026). This coordinating, cross-departmental technical governance function is a critical institutional design feature, since it provides a central point of technical accountability and standards-setting across the territory's otherwise dispersed departmental structure discussed extensively in Chapter 15, helping to ensure a degree of interoperability and technical consistency across the territory's various digital service delivery initiatives that a more fragmented, departmentally siloed digital governance model would struggle to achieve.

The National Informatics Centre's documentation for the territory lists a genuinely extensive roster of major national digital projects implemented across the territory's various sectors, including VAHAN and SARATHI for vehicle registration and driving licence services, iRAD for road accident data, e-Challan for traffic enforcement, the Automatic Traffic Signal system, the Aadhaar-enabled Public Distribution System discussed in relation to the territory's food security performance in Chapter 3, the Revenue Court Management System, Fair Price Shop Automation, e-Procurement, and the Real Estate Regulatory Authority-linked Realcraft system, alongside the Immigration, Visa, Foreigner Registration, and Tracking system (National Informatics Centre, 2026). This breadth of implemented national digital project coverage, spanning transport, welfare distribution, procurement, real estate regulation, and immigration functions, indicates that the territory's digital governance architecture extends well beyond the specific investment and rural development platforms discussed in earlier chapters into a genuinely comprehensive, whole-of-government digital service delivery footprint.



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Most recently, the territory administration has moved toward integrated digital land record management, with a live procurement notice at the time of this Framework's preparation seeking a software solution provider for the design, development, implementation, and deployment of an inter-departmental digital land management system, indicating continued, active investment in expanding the territory's digital public infrastructure into the land records domain, a sector with direct relevance to the industrial land availability constraints discussed in Chapter 13 and the housing and urban development themes discussed in Chapter 11 (U.T. Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026).

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

Citizen service delivery within the territory operates through a combination of the Common Service Centre network discussed in Section 16.1, dedicated territorial service portals, and the territory's engagement with the national MyGov citizen engagement platform, which maintains a dedicated microsite specifically for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, providing residents with a structured channel for civic engagement, feedback, and participation in national initiatives such as public grievance redressal and the Smart Cities Mission discussed in Chapter 11, with a specific, dedicated discussion group established for Smart City Diu initiatives on this national platform (MyGov, 2026a, 2026b).

The territory's Right of Citizens to Public Services framework, most recently updated through the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Right of Citizens to Public Services, Amendment Rules, 2026, notified by the territory's Department of Industries, provides the statutory foundation for guaranteed, time-bound delivery of specified public services to residents, a legislative accountability mechanism extending the digital service delivery infrastructure discussed throughout this chapter into an enforceable citizen entitlement framework (U.T. Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, 2026). This right to public services legislation, combined with the departmental citizen charters and Right to Information disclosure documentation maintained across the territory's departmental websites, discussed in Chapter 15's treatment of departmental structure, together provide residents with both the digital access channels and the legal accountability mechanisms necessary for effective citizen service delivery.

Mobile governance, referenced explicitly within the territory's IT Policy 2019-24 discussed in Section 16.2 as a specific policy priority alongside e-governance, extends the territory's digital service delivery architecture to residents accessing government services through

mobile devices, an increasingly important access channel given the territory's substantial migrant industrial workforce, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 7, who may rely more heavily on mobile connectivity than on fixed-location digital access points such as Common Service Centres for accessing government information and services during the limited non-working hours available to industrial shift workers.

16.4 Data Governance, Open Data Policy and Privacy Framework

Data governance within the territory operates within the broader national legal and regulatory framework, encompassing the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the associated national data governance architecture administered by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, extended uniformly to the territory on the same statutory basis as it applies across India's states. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific Open Data Policy or dedicated territorial data governance framework distinct from the national architecture, with sufficient detail for direct citation in this chapter, a finding consistent with the territory's demonstrated pattern, documented throughout this Framework, of integrating with national digital and institutional frameworks rather than developing extensively customised, territory-specific parallel structures, a pattern this Framework has also observed in the territory's higher education affiliation with Gujarat universities, discussed in Chapter 5, and its judicial affiliation with the Bombay High Court, discussed in Chapter 15.

Given the substantial data transparency gaps this Framework has identified across nearly every preceding chapter, spanning municipal finance data in Chapter 11, disaggregated MGNREGA implementation data in Chapter 12, and vigilance case statistics in Chapter 15, among numerous other examples, this Framework recommends that the territory administration's Department of Information Technology, discussed in Section 16.2, take on a coordinating role in developing a formal territorial Open Data Policy, potentially modelled on the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy framework, to systematise and centralise the publication of the many specific datasets this Framework has identified as currently unavailable or difficult to access in disaggregated, machine-readable form. Such a policy would directly complement the territory's already demonstrated digital infrastructure capability, discussed throughout this chapter, converting that back-office digital capability into greater public data transparency across the full range of governance domains this Framework has examined.

16.5 Cybersecurity: State-Level Institutional Mechanisms

Cybersecurity governance within the territory operates within the national Cyber Crime Coordination Centre and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team architecture administered by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology respectively, extended to the territory on the same national basis as to India's states, given the territory's status as a Union Territory without legislature and its correspondingly close integration with central government administrative and security architecture, discussed extensively throughout this Framework.

Given the scale of the territory's digital infrastructure, documented throughout this chapter, spanning the extensive roster of national Mission Mode Projects discussed in Section 16.2 and the territory's demonstrated digital public infrastructure investment in domains including land records, discussed in that same section, cybersecurity resilience carries particular importance for safeguarding both citizen data and the continued operational integrity of the territory's e-governance service delivery architecture. This Framework did not identify a standalone, publicly disclosed cybersecurity incident response report or dedicated territorial Computer Emergency Response Team specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu with sufficient detail for direct citation, and recommends the territory's Department of Information Technology publish a periodic cybersecurity posture assessment, given the increasing national policy emphasis on state and Union Territory-level cybersecurity resilience and the territory's own substantial and growing digital service delivery footprint documented throughout this chapter.

16.6 Emerging Technologies: AI, Geospatial Systems and Smart Governance

The territory's engagement with emerging technologies is most concretely evidenced through its Smart Cities Mission participation for Silvassa, discussed extensively in Chapter 11, and its parallel Smart City initiative for Diu, referenced explicitly through the dedicated Smart City Diu discussion group maintained on the national MyGov platform discussed in Section 16.3, indicating that both the territory's largest industrial city and its principal heritage tourism centre have been brought within India's national smart governance and urban technology integration framework (MyGov, 2026b).

Geospatial technology integration within the territory is evidenced concretely through the Ministry of Rural Development's own documentation, discussed in Chapter 12, confirming

the territory's inclusion within the national Cluster Facilitation Project's Geographic Information System-based planning approach for accelerated rural development, indicating that geospatial technology adoption within the territory extends beyond purely urban smart city applications into rural development planning as well. A further specific institutional recognition of the territory's digital governance achievement is the National e-Governance Award secured by the territory's NIC office under the Information and Communication Technology initiative category during the COVID-19 pandemic period, a national-level recognition explicitly documented in the NIC's own territory profile and corroborated by reference to the territory's Digital School Health Programme implemented during that same period, indicating that the territory's demonstrated digital governance capability, evident throughout this chapter, has received formal national recognition rather than reflecting only this Framework's own independent assessment (National Informatics Centre, 2026).

Artificial intelligence-specific governance applications within the territory, distinct from the broader digital infrastructure and e-governance architecture documented throughout this chapter, were not identified with sufficient specificity for direct citation in this chapter, an unsurprising finding given both the general early stage of AI-specific governance application across most Indian states and Union Territories at the time of this Framework's preparation, and the territory's demonstrated pattern, discussed throughout this chapter, of prioritising foundational digital infrastructure and Mission Mode Project implementation over more experimental emerging technology applications. This Framework assesses that the territory's strong foundational digital infrastructure, evidenced by its National e-Governance Award, its extensive Mission Mode Project implementation roster, and its demonstrated SWAN and CSC network connectivity, together provide a genuinely solid platform from which the territory could credibly extend into more advanced artificial intelligence and geospatial analytics applications over the period covered by this Framework's Vision 2047 planning horizon, discussed in Chapter 21, building on rather than needing to first establish the basic digital infrastructure that many other smaller jurisdictions still lack.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that technology-enabled service delivery represents one of the territory's most consistently well-documented and independently verified administrative strengths, evidenced by its National e-Governance Award, its confirmed SWAN connectivity, its extensive Mission Mode Project implementation, and its demonstrated, ongoing investment in new digital infrastructure such as the inter-departmental digital land management system discussed in



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Section 16.2. The principal recommendations arising from this chapter, spanning formal Open Data Policy development and dedicated cybersecurity posture reporting, both build directly on this already strong foundation rather than requiring the territory to develop fundamentally new digital capability from scratch. Chapter 17's discussion of innovation, research, and the knowledge economy, and Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening, both connect closely to the digital governance infrastructure examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the territory's capacity to convert its strong back-office digital capability into greater public data transparency and, over time, a more diversified knowledge economy extending beyond its traditional manufacturing base discussed extensively in Chapter 3.

CHAPTER 17: INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Innovation and knowledge economy development in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu represents a deliberate policy effort to diversify a territory whose economic identity, documented extensively in Chapters 3 and 4, remains overwhelmingly anchored in traditional manufacturing. This chapter examines the territory's innovation ecosystem, research and development linkages, intellectual property environment, knowledge institutions, youth

innovation architecture, and skill development infrastructure across six sections, tracing a consistent throughline from the territory's industrial base toward a more diversified knowledge economy.

17.1 State Innovation Ecosystem: Startups and Accelerators

The territory's formal innovation policy architecture rests on the Startup and Innovation Policy 2020, introduced specifically to foster an ecosystem for nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurship within the Union Territory, building explicitly on the territory's existing strong industrial ecosystem, documented in Chapter 3 as concentrated in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises across plastics, pharmaceuticals, paper and paper products, texturising, soda water, rubber and plastic products, petroleum-based products, and ice block manufacturing (Startup India, 2022). The territory administration has explicitly stated its aim of capitalising on this existing strong industrial foundation to further develop entrepreneurship and promote startup culture, positioning innovation policy as a natural extension of, rather than a departure from, the territory's manufacturing strength documented throughout this Framework.

The territory's participation in the national Startup Ranking Framework, tracked annually through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking exercise, has evolved meaningfully since the territory's initial engagement. The 2022 assessment documented the territory's active participation across nine specific Action Points of the Startup Ranking Framework 2020, with performance evaluated through percentile scores across distinct reform areas, indicating the territory had moved beyond a purely aspirational innovation policy stance into measurable, framework-aligned implementation activity (Startup India, 2022). A more recent States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking report specific to Daman and Diu, identified in the Startup India portal's 2026 results archive, confirms the territory's continued, ongoing participation in this national annual ranking exercise, indicating sustained institutional engagement with startup ecosystem development rather than a one-time policy announcement that subsequently lapsed (Startup India, 2026).

Incubation infrastructure specifically available to the territory operates substantially through the national Atal Innovation Mission architecture, under which the Government of India has approved thirteen Atal Incubation Centres nationally, each receiving a grant of 10 crore rupees, alongside grant-in-aid support of 10 crore rupees extended to six Established



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Incubation Centres nationally, with Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu specifically identified within the Atal Innovation Mission's own compendium of incubation support initiatives as a covered jurisdiction within this national incubation infrastructure programme (Atal Innovation Mission, as cited in Startup India, 2022). This national incubation architecture, while not indicating a dedicated, standalone incubator physically located within the territory itself based on the sources reviewed for this chapter, nonetheless provides territory-based entrepreneurs and startups with formal access to this broader national incubation support ecosystem, a connection this Framework recommends the territory administration continue to actively leverage and, where feasible, supplement with a dedicated, territory-based incubation facility linked to the territory's own manufacturing strengths, discussed in Section 17.2.

17.2 Research and Development: Academic-Industry Linkages

Research and development activity within the territory remains constrained by the comparatively limited higher education research infrastructure discussed in Chapter 5, where the territory's three government arts and science colleges, affiliated with external Gujarat universities, and its single medical college, the NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute, together constitute the territory's principal higher education research capacity. This Framework did not identify a dedicated, standalone research institute or research park within the territory comparable to those established in India's larger states, and assesses that research and development activity relevant to the territory is likely concentrated substantially within the private sector, embedded directly within the territory's manufacturing enterprises, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 4, rather than within a distinct, publicly funded academic research infrastructure.

The most concrete evidence of formal academic-industry linkage infrastructure within the territory is the Government Engineering College, Daman, situated at Mota Falia, Varkund, in Daman, affiliated with Gujarat Technological University in Ahmedabad and specialising in engineering and technology education, operating under central government management (NearMe, 2026). This engineering college, combined with the Government Polytechnic, Daman, situated in the same locality, provides the territory with a formal technical education and, by extension, applied research capacity directly oriented toward the engineering disciplines most relevant to the territory's dominant textile, plastics, chemical, and, increasingly, metals manufacturing sub-sectors, discussed in Chapter 4 (NearMe, 2026). The

territory's Department of Higher and Technical Education, discussed in Chapter 5, administers centralised online admission processes for both this Government Engineering College and the territory's polytechnic and Industrial Training Institute network, indicating an integrated administrative approach to the territory's technical higher education pipeline (Department of Higher and Technical Education, U.T. Administration, 2026).

This Framework assesses that the territory's most promising pathway for strengthening genuine academic-industry research and development linkages lies in deepening formal collaboration between the Government Engineering College Daman and the territory's substantial base of large anchor industrial enterprises, discussed in Chapter 4, including Hindalco Industries' aluminium extrusion facility and the territory's dominant polyester and plastics manufacturers, potentially through structured internship placement, applied research project collaboration, and industry-sponsored research chairs, an approach that would directly leverage the territory's existing, well-documented industrial strength discussed throughout this Framework rather than requiring the territory to build entirely new, standalone research infrastructure disconnected from its economic base.

17.3 Intellectual Property: Awareness, Registration and Commercialisation

Intellectual property awareness and registration activity within the territory operates within the national Intellectual Property India framework administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the same national department responsible for the Startup Ranking Framework discussed in Section 17.1 and the FDI policy architecture discussed in Chapter 4. This Framework did not identify a standalone, territory-specific patent filing statistics report, trademark registration count, or dedicated Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu with sufficient recency and detail for direct citation in this chapter, a data gap consistent with the broader pattern of thinner disaggregated institutional reporting available for this small Union Territory, documented throughout this Framework.

Given the territory's substantial concentration of plastics and chemical manufacturing, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 4, where process innovation and formulation-specific intellectual property protection carry particular commercial significance, this Framework recommends the territory administration, potentially working through its Department of Industries discussed in Chapter 16's reference to that department's recent Right of Citizens to

Public Services notification, establish or formally partner with an existing regional Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre to provide territory-based manufacturers, particularly smaller MSMEs within the territory's more than 35,000-strong registered MSME base documented in Chapter 3, with accessible guidance on patent, trademark, and design registration processes relevant to their specific manufacturing sub-sectors.

17.4 Knowledge Institutions as Engines of Development

The territory's principal knowledge institutions, examined individually across earlier chapters of this Framework, together constitute a modest but functionally complete tertiary education and applied knowledge infrastructure for a territory of this size. These institutions include the three government Arts and Science Colleges discussed in Chapter 5, affiliated respectively with Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, South Gujarat University, and Saurashtra University, the NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute discussed extensively in Chapter 5 as the territory's flagship medical education and, by extension, health research institution, and the Government Engineering College Daman and Government Polytechnic Daman discussed in Section 17.2, affiliated with Gujarat Technological University.

This constellation of knowledge institutions, while individually small in scale relative to the flagship universities and research institutions found in India's major states, collectively provides the territory with formal higher education and applied technical training capacity spanning the humanities and sciences, medicine, and engineering, a genuinely comprehensive institutional spread for a territory of this population size, discussed in Chapter 1. This Framework assesses that the territory's knowledge institution infrastructure, examined as a coherent system rather than as isolated individual institutions, represents a meaningful foundation for continued knowledge economy development, though it recommends, consistent with Chapter 5's own recommendations regarding higher education capacity expansion, that the territory administration explore opportunities for deeper inter-institutional collaboration among these existing knowledge institutions, potentially including shared research infrastructure, joint academic programming linking the engineering college's technical curriculum with the medical institute's health research agenda, discussed in Chapter 6, and coordinated community outreach programming building on the medical institute's substantial outpatient service footprint documented in that same chapter.

17.5 Building a Youth Innovation and Research Ecosystem

Youth innovation and research ecosystem development within the territory connects directly to the education system foundations examined in Chapter 5, particularly the strong performance of the territory's school-going population on the 2024 PARAKH national learning assessment discussed in that chapter, where students in the territory performed at or above national average benchmarks in language and mathematics, providing a genuinely solid foundational cohort from which continued youth innovation programming could draw. The territory's participation in the Atal Innovation Mission architecture, discussed in Section 17.1, extends in principle to Atal Tinkering Labs, the Mission's school-level innovation infrastructure programme designed to cultivate curiosity, creativity, and imagination among young students through hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, though this Framework did not identify a specific, territory-disaggregated count of Atal Tinkering Labs established within the territory's schools with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter.

Given the territory's substantial tribal youth population, documented extensively in Chapter 7, and the specific data this Framework has already established in Chapter 5 regarding girls in the territory's schools performing at or above national average benchmarks on the 2024 PARAKH assessment, this Framework assesses that targeted youth innovation programming, if extended with particular reach into Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's tribal rural interior alongside the territory's more urbanised school population, could meaningfully broaden the demographic base of the territory's future innovation and knowledge economy workforce beyond the urban, industrially connected population that has historically dominated the territory's economic narrative, discussed throughout this Framework. This Framework recommends the territory administration prioritise expansion of Atal Tinkering Lab and similar youth innovation infrastructure specifically within schools serving Nagar Haveli taluka's rural and tribal communities, building on the encouraging PARAKH learning outcome data already documented in Chapter 5 for this population.

17.6 Skill Development, Employability and Workforce Alignment

Skill development infrastructure within the territory is anchored by a well-established network of Industrial Training Institutes located in Daman, Silvassa, and Diu, offering craftsman training in various technical trades specifically designed to support the territory's dominant manufacturing sector, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 4 (Invest India, 2026). The flagship Industrial Training Institute, Daman, established in 1978 and operating

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under the territory administration's approval from the Directorate General of Employment and Training under the National Council for Vocational Training, offers one-year and two-year training programmes across both engineering and non-engineering trades, including Fitter, Turner, Electrician, Wireman, Electronics Mechanics, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Diesel Mechanic, Welder, and, of particular direct relevance to the territory's dominant industrial sub-sector documented in Chapter 3, a dedicated Plastic Processing Operator trade, alongside Computer Operator and Programming Assistant, Cutting and Sewing, and Information Technology courses (Industrial Training Institute Daman, 2026). This explicit inclusion of a Plastic Processing Operator trade within the ITI's course offerings represents a directly evidenced example of the demand-responsive curriculum alignment this Framework recommended in Chapter 5's discussion of the territory's technical and vocational education ecosystem, confirming that at least this specific dimension of skills-industry alignment has already been implemented rather than remaining only a recommendation.

A particularly notable and specifically documented skill development initiative for this Framework is the establishment of an Industrial Training Institute in the tribal area of Khanvel, explicitly cited in a national conference presentation on skill development infrastructure in difficult areas as a specific example, alongside comparable initiatives in other states, of extending formal vocational training infrastructure directly into a territory's more remote, tribal-populated interior rather than concentrating such infrastructure solely within the dominant urban industrial core (2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries, as cited in Odisha Planning and Convergence Department, 2023). Given that Khanvel village is documented in Chapter 13 as the location of the Satmalia Deer Park within the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in Nagar Haveli taluka's rural interior, this ITI establishment represents a concrete, independently verified example of the territory administration extending formal technical skilling infrastructure specifically into its tribal rural hinterland, directly complementing the tribal-prioritised rural housing targeting discussed in Chapter 12 and the broader tribal welfare priority documented extensively in Chapter 7.

The territory's skill development ecosystem additionally engages with the national Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana architecture through the Skill India Digital Hub platform, which maintains Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, listed as separate territorial categories reflecting the platform's continued use of pre-merger nomenclature, as a distinct location filter within its national training centre directory, spanning skill sectors including



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Information Technology and IT-enabled Services, apparel and home furnishing, electronics, healthcare, construction, automotive, telecom, power, tourism and hospitality, and logistics, among others (Skill India Digital Hub, 2026). This breadth of skill sector coverage available to territory residents through the national PMKVY architecture, combined with the territory's own dedicated ITI network discussed above, together provide a reasonably comprehensive skill development infrastructure spanning both traditional manufacturing trades directly aligned with the territory's industrial base and the broader services-sector skills relevant to the territory's growing tertiary sector, discussed in Chapter 3.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that the territory's innovation, research, and skill development ecosystem, while modest in absolute scale relative to India's major innovation hubs, demonstrates a consistent and genuinely evidenced pattern of deliberate alignment between skilling and knowledge infrastructure investment and the territory's existing manufacturing economic base, exemplified concretely by the ITI's dedicated Plastic Processing Operator trade and the specific extension of technical training infrastructure into the tribal area of Khanvel. The principal recommendations arising from this chapter, spanning deeper academic-industry research collaboration, dedicated intellectual property facilitation support, and expanded youth innovation infrastructure reaching further into the territory's tribal rural interior, all build directly on this demonstrated pattern of economically grounded, demand-responsive institutional development, rather than requiring the territory to pursue innovation policy disconnected from its established industrial strengths. Chapter 18's discussion of agriculture and allied sectors, and Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening, both connect to themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the continued need for improved data disclosure to enable more precise tracking of the territory's innovation and skill development outcomes over time.

CHAPTER 18: AGRICULTURE, ALLIED SECTORS AND FOOD SECURITY

Agriculture in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a structurally diminishing but locally significant position within the territory's economy, a trajectory shaped decisively by the same industrialisation forces examined throughout Chapters 3 and 4. This chapter examines the territory's agricultural cropping pattern, irrigation efficiency, marketing infrastructure, food processing potential, animal husbandry and dairy sector, fisheries, horticulture, and agricultural credit and insurance architecture across eight sections.

18.1 Cropping Pattern, Agricultural Productivity and Input Use

The territory's cropping pattern is documented with unusual precision for a data domain that this Framework has, in several preceding chapters, identified as thinly reported for this small Union Territory. The Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee's agricultural profile records that paddy accounts for the highest share of field crop cultivation at 78 percent, covering 2,114.90 hectares, with other important field crops comprising pulses, principally red Val, or hyacinth bean, and vegetables, together accounting for the remaining 589.74 hectares of cultivated field crop area (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). Approximately 1,000 hectares, or about 50 percent of the territory's net cultivated area, are covered by hybrid, high-yielding variety seed, indicating a meaningful, if partial, adoption of improved agricultural input technology across the territory's farming base (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). During the kharif, or monsoon, cropping season, the territory's Ministry of Food Processing Industries profile confirms cultivation of paddy, ragi, red gram, urad, or black gram, niger as an oilseed crop in specific regions, and rainfed vegetables, a cropping pattern directly consistent with the territory's high monsoon rainfall regime documented in Chapter 1 (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025).

The single most consequential and independently corroborated finding for this section is the explicit, documented structural decline of the territory's agricultural sector, driven directly by the industrialisation trajectory examined throughout this Framework. The UTLBC agricultural profile states plainly that the most prominent change in the territory's agricultural scenario over the years has been a shift in focus away from agriculture in favour of secondary sub-sectors, specifically industry and tourism, a shift that has resulted in agricultural area diminishing each year alongside a shortage of agricultural labour (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). This finding is independently corroborated by a NABARD tender document specific to Daman district, which similarly confirms that due to rapid industrialisation, the share of agriculture sector in employment is reducing day by day in the district (NABARD, 2015). This consistent, multiply sourced finding of structural agricultural decline directly parallels the labour market dynamics examined in Chapter 3, where the territory's dominant industrial wage economy draws labour away from agricultural activity, and it reinforces this Framework's assessment throughout preceding chapters that the territory's economic identity has decisively shifted toward manufacturing, even as agriculture retains continued social and livelihood significance for specific rural and tribal communities discussed in Chapter 7.

Labour shortage specifically has generated concrete, documented agronomic consequences. The NABARD document for Daman district records that many farmers have destroyed their very old sapota, or chikoo, trees specifically due to the labour shortage problem, an striking finding illustrating how acutely the territory's tight agricultural labour market, driven by competing industrial wage opportunities discussed in Chapter 3, has directly reshaped farmers' crop and orchard management decisions, in this specific instance leading to the removal of long-established, presumably productive fruit trees rather than continued investment in their maintenance (NABARD, 2015). This Framework recommends that any future agricultural support programming for the territory explicitly account for this documented labour constraint, potentially through targeted mechanisation subsidy support discussed further in this chapter, rather than designing interventions premised on labour availability assumptions that these two independent sources both indicate no longer hold within the territory.

18.2 Irrigation and Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture

Building on Chapter 10's treatment of the territory's irrigation infrastructure, this section examines irrigation specifically as it pertains to agricultural productivity. The single most significant planned irrigation infrastructure development identified for this chapter is the Damanganga Irrigation Project, a joint venture between the Government of Gujarat and the Union Territories of Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which, once fully implemented and commissioned, will create an irrigation potential of 3,071 hectares specifically within Daman district (UTLBC Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Diu and Daman, 2020). This project represents a further concrete example of the inter-jurisdictional water infrastructure cooperation between the territory and Gujarat discussed in Chapters 2 and 10, extending that cooperative water infrastructure relationship specifically into agricultural irrigation capacity expansion.

Given the territory's structurally declining agricultural land area, documented in Section 18.1, this Framework assesses that the value proposition of continued investment in irrigation expansion, including the Damanganga Irrigation Project discussed above, merits careful reconsideration in light of the diminishing agricultural land base the expanded irrigation capacity would ultimately serve. This Framework recommends the territory administration conduct an updated cost-benefit assessment of the Damanganga Irrigation Project's originally projected 3,071 hectare irrigation potential against the territory's current, smaller agricultural land base, to ensure continued capital investment in this infrastructure remains proportionate to genuine, current agricultural demand rather than reflecting planning assumptions from an earlier period when the territory's agricultural sector occupied a larger economic footprint.

18.3 Agricultural Marketing, Price Realisation and Farmer Income

Agricultural marketing infrastructure within the territory operates substantially through the horticultural open auction sale mechanism discussed in Chapter 3, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation and Horticulture in Daman, which periodically conducts auction sales specifically for produce such as chikoo, discussed in Section 18.1's treatment of the labour shortage pressures affecting the territory's chikoo orchards (UT Administration, 2026). This Framework did not identify a comprehensive, disaggregated agricultural marketing infrastructure assessment, encompassing the number and capacity of regulated agricultural produce market committees, or mandis, operating within the territory, with sufficient recency and detail for direct citation in this chapter, a data gap consistent with the broader pattern of thin agricultural statistical reporting for this small territory documented throughout this Framework.



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Given the territory's small agricultural land base and its geographic proximity to the much larger and more developed agricultural marketing infrastructure of neighbouring Gujarat, discussed extensively throughout this Framework in the context of the territory's broader regional economic integration, this Framework assesses that territory farmers likely rely substantially on cross-border marketing linkages into Gujarat's more extensive agricultural marketing network, a pattern this Framework recommends be more formally documented and, where beneficial, strengthened through coordinated cross-border agricultural marketing arrangements between the territory administration and neighbouring Gujarat and Maharashtra agricultural marketing authorities.

18.4 Food Processing Industry and Value Chain Development

Food processing represents a specifically identified growth opportunity for the territory's agricultural sector, one the Ministry of Food Processing Industries' own territory profile explicitly highlights as offering abundant opportunities in processing sub-sectors including fisheries, cold chain logistics, and agro-processing (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025). The territory's good supply of horticultural produce, specifically mangoes and coconuts discussed in Section 18.1, is explicitly identified by this same source as suitable input material for preparing value-added products including shakes, beverages, coconut milk, and other nutritious products, indicating specific, product-level value chain development potential the territory administration could target through dedicated food processing investment promotion (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025).

Institutionally, the territory's food processing sector benefits from the same Single Window System for industrial clearances discussed extensively in Chapter 4, which the Ministry of Food Processing Industries profile explicitly confirms extends to food processing enterprises seeking to establish and operate within the territory, alongside the territory's participation in national food processing schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme, both discussed in Chapter 3 (Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 2025). This Framework assesses food processing as one of the more genuinely promising diversification pathways for the territory's agricultural sector precisely because it does not require reversing the structural agricultural land decline documented in Section 18.1, but instead adds value to the territory's existing, smaller horticultural output base while simultaneously connecting to the territory's demonstrated strength in industrial manufacturing and export activity, discussed extensively

in Chapter 3, offering a natural bridge between the territory's declining primary sector and its dominant secondary sector.

18.5 Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Poultry: Economic Contribution

Animal husbandry within the territory, as assessed in Chapter 3, remains a comparatively minor contributor to the primary sector relative to fisheries and horticulture, a finding this chapter's more detailed review confirms rather than revises. The territory's own Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry documentation, referenced in Chapter 12's discussion of the territory administration's departmental structure, indicates institutional coverage of animal husbandry and veterinary services extending across the territory's districts, including active procurement activity for the territory's government hospital veterinary services documented in Chapter 16's reference to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in Daman (U.T. Administration, 2026).

This Framework did not identify comprehensive, disaggregated livestock population census data, milk production volume, or poultry output figures specific to the merged territory with sufficient recency for direct citation in this chapter, though Indiastat's agricultural data compilation for the territory confirms Animal Husbandry and Livestock, alongside Milk and Dairy Products and Poultry, as tracked statistical categories maintained within the national agricultural statistics architecture for the territory, indicating that underlying data collection infrastructure exists even where this Framework was unable to extract specific, current figures with sufficient precision for direct citation (Indiastat, 2025j). Given the territory's limited pastureland, discussed in Chapter 1's treatment of the territory's predominantly forested and industrially developed land use pattern, this Framework assesses animal husbandry and dairy as likely to remain a modest-scale, primarily smallholder and household-level activity within the territory's rural economy rather than emerging as a significant standalone economic growth driver comparable to the territory's fisheries or food processing potential discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

18.6 Fisheries: Inland, Marine and Aquaculture

Fisheries, as established in Chapter 3, constitute a particularly important primary sector activity for Daman and Diu specifically, given their coastal location along the territory's Arabian Sea coastline discussed in Chapter 1. This chapter's review confirms and extends the Chapter 3 finding that the territory's fisheries sector encompasses both inshore fishing

activity supporting smaller-scale coastal fishing communities and larger, mechanised deep-sea fishing vessels operating out of Daman's fishing harbour, discussed in Chapter 8's treatment of the territory's port infrastructure.

The September 2025 partnership between India and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop Blue Port infrastructure nationally, discussed extensively in Chapters 3, 8, and 13, represents the single most significant near-term development opportunity for the territory's fisheries sector, given its explicit focus on modernising fishing harbours, integrating technology and sustainability considerations, boosting fisheries exports, and strengthening food security (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b). This Framework reiterates its recommendation, first articulated in Chapter 8, that the territory administration actively pursue formal inclusion of Daman's fishing harbour within this national Blue Port modernisation programme, given the direct relevance of this national initiative to the territory's established fisheries economic base and its emerging blue economy growth corridor status, discussed in Chapter 3.

Aquaculture specifically, as distinct from capture fisheries, was not identified as a significantly developed sub-sector within the territory based on the sources reviewed for this chapter, and this Framework assesses that the territory's fisheries economy remains substantially oriented toward capture fisheries, both inshore and deep-sea, rather than pond-based or coastal aquaculture farming of the kind more extensively developed in states such as Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, representing a potential further diversification opportunity for the territory's fisheries sector that this Framework recommends the territory administration explore in coordination with the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying's national aquaculture development schemes.

18.7 Horticulture, Floriculture and Medicinal Plants

Horticulture, as established in Chapter 3 and further detailed in Section 18.1 of this chapter, centres on the territory's coconut, mango, and chikoo cultivation, concentrated substantially within Daman district's coastal agricultural belt, where climatic conditions similar to those of neighbouring Valsad district in Gujarat support these specific crops, according to the NABARD assessment of Daman's agricultural sector (NABARD, 2015). That same assessment specifically identifies protected cultivation, including greenhouse and nethouse horticulture, as providing good income to farmers within the district, indicating that higher-value, technology-enabled horticultural production models are already being adopted,

at least by some farmers, as a response to the land and labour constraints documented throughout this chapter (NABARD, 2015).

Floriculture and medicinal plant cultivation were not identified as significantly developed sub-sectors within the territory based on the sources reviewed for this chapter, and this Framework assesses that the territory's horticultural focus remains concentrated on the traditional fruit crops discussed above rather than extending into these more specialised, typically higher-value horticultural niches. Given the demonstrated success of protected cultivation techniques already documented in Daman district, this Framework recommends the territory administration explore targeted subsidy support for expanding greenhouse and nethouse horticultural infrastructure, building on the NABARD assessment's own positive finding regarding this technique's income benefits for farmers, as a further response to the labour shortage and land constraint pressures documented throughout this chapter.

18.8 Agricultural Credit, Insurance and Risk Management

Agricultural credit access within the territory, as measured through the Kisan Credit Card scheme, the national instrument providing farmers with affordable, timely credit access for agricultural and allied activities, reveals a specific and concerning finding for this chapter. The NABARD assessment of Daman district records that the total number of Kisan Credit Cards issued up to 31 March 2015 was only 372, a figure the assessment explicitly characterises as requiring expanded coverage specifically to small and marginal farmers within the district (NABARD, 2015). While this figure is now dated relative to this Framework's 2026 preparation, and more recent Kisan Credit Card issuance data specific to the territory was not identified with sufficient currency for direct citation in this chapter, this historical finding nonetheless illustrates a documented pattern of comparatively limited formal agricultural credit penetration within at least Daman district's farming population, a pattern this Framework recommends the territory administration verify against current data and address through renewed Kisan Credit Card outreach campaigns specifically targeting the territory's small and marginal farmer population, particularly given the general national policy emphasis on expanding Kisan Credit Card coverage as a foundational agricultural financial inclusion instrument.

The same NABARD assessment identifies specific, practical credit-linked interventions relevant to the labour and mechanisation challenges documented throughout this chapter, recommending that farmers be supported in purchasing farm machinery, including paddy

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transplanters, self-propelled harvesters, and threshers, through bank loan financing, noting that subsidy support is already available from the agriculture department for equipment such as tractors and power tillers (NABARD, 2015). The assessment further recommends that banks adopt a Joint Liability Group financing strategy specifically to enable small and marginal farmers to purchase farm machinery and equipment collectively, an approach explicitly identified as capable of both increasing productivity and reducing the drudgery associated with the labour shortage constraint documented in Section 18.1 (NABARD, 2015). This Framework endorses this NABARD-recommended Joint Liability Group mechanisation financing approach as a particularly well-targeted intervention for the territory's specific agricultural constraints, since it directly addresses the documented labour shortage problem through capital-labour substitution while working within the existing small and marginal farmer landholding structure that predominates within the territory's diminishing agricultural land base.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that agriculture in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu occupies a position of continued but structurally diminishing economic significance, a trajectory this Framework assesses as a natural and, in important respects, economically rational consequence of the territory's extraordinary manufacturing sector strength documented throughout this Framework, rather than as agricultural policy failure requiring reversal. The most promising forward-looking priorities identified in this chapter, food processing value chain development discussed in Section 18.4, fisheries modernisation through the Blue Port partnership discussed in Section 18.6, protected cultivation expansion discussed in Section 18.7, and Joint Liability Group mechanisation financing discussed in Section 18.8, together represent a coherent strategy of helping the territory's remaining agricultural sector adapt to, and where possible benefit from, rather than compete against, the territory's dominant industrial economic trajectory. Chapter 19's discussion of tourism, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap, both connect to themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the continued role of the territory's horticultural produce, discussed in Section 18.7, within its broader tourism and hospitality economy.



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CHAPTER 19: TOURISM, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

Tourism in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu draws on a genuinely distinctive combination of assets documented throughout this Framework, Portuguese colonial heritage architecture in Daman and Diu, forested hills and tribal culture in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and a coastline offering both heritage forts and recreational beaches. This chapter examines the territory's tourism asset base, infrastructure, visitor flow trends, heritage preservation architecture, creative industries, and media sector across six sections.

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

The territory's tourism asset base divides naturally along the same geographic lines established throughout this Framework, a coastal, Portuguese-influenced heritage zone in Daman and Diu, and a forested, hilly, tribal-influenced natural zone in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In Diu, the dominant heritage asset is the Diu Fort, a massive sixteenth-century Portuguese-era structure occupying a prominent position among the territory's tourist attractions, offering visitors access to its many rooms and walls with panoramic views of the Arabian Sea, alongside a lighthouse and historic cannons (Incredible India, 2026a; HECT India, 2026a). Adjacent to the fort, the Naida Caves, natural formations created by erosion outside the fort's city wall, provide a network of tunnels and rock formations that has become a distinctive geological and recreational attraction (HECT India, 2026a; Places/Centres, U.T. Administration, 2026). Diu's religious heritage architecture includes St. Paul's Church, an approximately 400-year-old structure built in 1691, and the Gangeshwar Temple, a coastal shrine housing five Shiva Lingas said to have been installed by the Pandavas, where high tide waves washing over the lingas create a distinctive spiritual atmosphere for pilgrims (Places/Centres, U.T. Administration, 2026; HECT India, 2026a). Nagoa Beach, a horseshoe-shaped beach on Diu island, provides the territory's principal recreational coastal asset, supporting swimming, sunbathing, and water sports along its palm-fringed shoreline (HECT India, 2026a).

Daman's heritage assets centre on its Portuguese fortifications and ecclesiastical architecture, including St. Jerome Fort, also known as Nani Daman Fort, a smaller but historically significant structure facing the Daman Ganga River and incorporating a church and lighthouse, alongside a cluster of colonial-era churches including St. Paul's, St. Francis of Assisi, and the St. Thomas Church Museum (HECT India, 2026a; DNHDD Tourism, 2026a). The Somnath Mahadev Temple in Daman provides a further religious tourism draw, described as a revered site attracting both devotees and tourists (HECT India, 2026b).

Dadra and Nagar Haveli's tourism assets are dominated by natural and tribal cultural heritage sites rather than colonial architecture, reflecting the district's distinct historical trajectory discussed in Chapter 1. The Vanganga Lake and Island Garden, spanning approximately 7.58 hectares and functioning as a mini forest, incorporates a musical fountain and boating facilities, and is complemented by the Dudhni Lake, offering placid waters for boating amid verdant surroundings, and the Hirwa Van Garden near Silvassa (Places/Centres, U.T. Administration, 2026; Incredible India, 2026b; Travel Hub India, 2026). Wildlife-based tourism draws directly on the conservation infrastructure discussed in Chapter 13, with the Lion Safari Wildlife Park and Satmalia Deer Park within the Dadra and Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary offering visitors direct access to the territory's leopard, deer, and diverse bird population documented in that chapter (Sea Water Sports, 2026). The Church of Our Lady of Piety, a centuries-old structure whose Gothic architecture has been compared to Barcelona's Sagrada Familia, represents a specific colonial-era heritage asset within Dadra and Nagar Haveli district itself, illustrating that Portuguese ecclesiastical heritage extends beyond Daman and Diu into parts of the territory's third district as well (Incredible India, 2026b). Gira Waterfalls, situated approximately 40 kilometres from Silvassa, provides the territory's principal natural adventure and scenic retreat destination (Travel Hub India, 2026).

19.2 Tourism Infrastructure: Hotels, Connectivity and Facilitation

Hospitality infrastructure within the territory is concentrated substantially in Diu, where the Department of Tourism's own directory lists a range of established properties including Hotel Kohinoor, Azzaro Resort and Spa, Radhika Beach Resort and Rasal Beach Resort at Nagoa, The Grand Highness, and Hotel Cidade De Diu, alongside Khanvel Resort in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, indicating that formal hospitality infrastructure extends across both the territory's coastal and inland tourism zones rather than being concentrated exclusively in Diu (DNHDD Tourism, 2026b). This range of mid-market and resort-style properties, particularly the beach-adjacent resorts at Nagoa discussed in Section 19.1, suggests a hospitality sector oriented substantially toward domestic leisure and weekend tourism rather than international luxury travel, consistent with this Framework's broader characterisation of the territory's tourism economy throughout this chapter.

Connectivity infrastructure supporting tourism access, discussed extensively in Chapter 8, has strengthened considerably in recent years, particularly through Diu Airport's substantial passenger growth documented in that chapter, rising by over 57 percent in a single year

according to Airports Authority of India data, connecting the island to Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Bhuj. This growth in air connectivity directly supports the territory's tourism sector, since Diu's relative geographic remoteness, discussed in Chapter 8, has historically constrained its accessibility relative to Daman's comparatively easier road access from Mumbai and Gujarat. Regional connectivity for tourists exploring the wider area is further supported by proximate destinations outside the territory's own boundaries, including Vapi, described in tourism guides as an industrial gateway town near Daman, and Udvada, a sacred Zoroastrian pilgrimage town approximately 15 kilometres from Daman, both of which extend the territory's effective tourism catchment into neighbouring Gujarat (HECT India, 2026a).

Institutional facilitation for the tourism sector operates through the Department of Tourism, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, headquartered at Vidyut Bhawan within the Secretariat complex in Kachigam, Daman, which the department's own documentation describes as playing a pivotal role in promoting tourism and cultural heritage across the Union Territory, fostering economic growth and sustainable development (DNHDD Tourism, 2026a; DNHDD Tourism, 2026c). This tourism department additionally connects to the territory's broader investment facilitation architecture discussed in Chapter 4, with the Ease of Doing Business Single Window Portal maintaining a dedicated tourism department section, indicating that hospitality and tourism sector investors benefit from the same streamlined clearance architecture documented extensively in Chapter 4 for the territory's industrial sector (EODB Single Window Portal, 2026).

19.3 Domestic and International Tourist Flows: Trends and Targets

Comprehensive, disaggregated tourist arrival statistics specific to the merged territory, broken down by domestic and international visitor origin and by specific year, were not identified with sufficient recency and precision for direct citation in this chapter, a data limitation consistent with the broader pattern of thinner statistical reporting for this small Union Territory documented throughout this Framework. What can be established with confidence, drawing on the Diu Airport passenger growth data discussed in Chapter 8, is that visitor traffic to at least the Diu component of the territory has grown substantially and rapidly in recent years, with air passenger numbers alone rising from 66,252 in the 2024 financial year to 127,659 in the 2026 financial year according to industry compilation, an increase of approximately 93 percent over that two-year window, and independently corroborated by

Airports Authority of India data showing a 57.3 percent year-on-year increase for the 2024-25 period specifically (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2026b; Wikipedia, 2025r).

Given that air travel represents only one access mode among several, discussed in Chapter 8, and that a substantial share of the territory's tourist traffic, particularly to Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, arrives by road from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Gujarat rather than by air, the actual scale of total tourist visitation to the territory as a whole is very likely substantially larger than the air passenger figures alone suggest. The territory's active social media presence, evidenced by its official tourism department Facebook page recording over 18,000 followers, alongside its hosting of specific cultural tourism events such as the Monsoon Festival 2025, featuring performances by artists including Neeti Mohan, indicates an increasingly active, marketing-driven approach to visitor attraction, extending beyond passive heritage site maintenance into deliberate event-based tourism promotion (Facebook, 2026; DNHDD Tourism, 2026b).

This Framework recommends the territory's Department of Tourism publish a comprehensive, disaggregated annual tourist arrival report, covering all access modes, domestic and international visitor origin breakdown, and district-level visitation figures, to enable more precise tracking of the tourism sector's economic contribution and growth trajectory than is currently possible using the fragmented air passenger data discussed above as a partial proxy.

19.4 Cultural Heritage Preservation and Institutional Framework

Diu Fort's designation as noted across several tourism sources as a UNESCO World Heritage site, discussed in Section 19.1, though this Framework notes that this designation should be verified against UNESCO's own official World Heritage List, since several of India's Portuguese-era coastal forts carry informal or aspirational World Heritage status references in tourism marketing material without necessarily having completed formal UNESCO inscription, a distinction this Framework flags for accuracy rather than asserting definitively either way given the conflicting precision of sources reviewed for this chapter (Sea Water Sports, 2026). Regardless of formal UNESCO status, the fort's architectural and historical significance as a well-preserved sixteenth-century Portuguese coastal fortification is not in

dispute, and its conservation represents a clear institutional priority for the territory's Department of Tourism and any associated heritage conservation authority.

The Tribal Cultural Museum in Silvassa provides the territory's principal institutional mechanism for preserving and presenting the cultural heritage of the Warli, Dhodia, Kokna, and other tribal communities documented extensively in Chapter 7, offering visitors what tourism sources describe as a captivating glimpse into the indigenous heritage and artistry of the region's tribal communities (Incredible India, 2026b). This museum represents a direct institutional link between the territory's tourism sector and its social justice and cultural preservation priorities discussed in Chapter 7, converting the tribal cultural heritage documented in that chapter into both an educational resource for visitors and, potentially, an economic opportunity for tribal artisans, discussed further in Section 19.5.

Church heritage preservation, spanning the Church of Our Lady of Piety in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and the cluster of colonial churches in Daman and Diu discussed in Section 19.1, falls within the broader national framework for protected monuments administered by the Archaeological Survey of India where applicable, though this Framework did not identify a specific, disaggregated list of Archaeological Survey of India centrally protected monuments within the territory with sufficient precision for direct citation, and recommends the territory's Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India, publish a clear, authoritative inventory of the territory's protected heritage structures and their current conservation status, to provide both greater public transparency and a stronger evidentiary basis for future heritage conservation investment planning.

19.5 Creative Industries: Handicrafts, Performing Arts and Cultural Economy

Handicraft production within the territory centres substantially on Warli painting, the distinctive tribal art form associated with the Warli community discussed extensively in Chapter 7 as the largest Scheduled Tribe group within Dadra and Nagar Haveli district. Tourism sources specifically identify Silvassa's Kilvani Road market as a hub where visitors can purchase exquisite Warli paintings and eco-friendly paper bags, each reflecting the region's artistic prowess and commitment to sustainability, indicating an established, functioning commercial channel through which tribal artisans can market their work directly to the territory's growing tourist base (Incredible India, 2026b). This Framework assesses that this direct linkage between tribal cultural heritage, discussed in Chapter 7, and tourism-driven handicraft commerce represents one of the more genuinely well-integrated examples of

inclusive economic development identified across this Framework, since it creates a market-based livelihood channel for tribal artisans that operates independently of, and as a genuine complement to, the territory's dominant industrial wage labour economy discussed extensively in Chapter 3.

Given the strength of this existing Warli painting market channel, this Framework recommends the territory administration consider formal Geographical Indication registration for Warli painting originating specifically from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, building on the broader national Geographical Indication registration framework that has successfully protected and commercially strengthened numerous other India regional handicraft traditions, potentially in coordination with the intellectual property facilitation recommendations discussed in Chapter 17. This Framework further recommends expanded institutional support for tribal artisan cooperatives, potentially linked to the TRIFED Van Dhan Yojana partnership discussed in Chapter 7, to formalise and scale the existing Kilvani Road market model beyond its current, apparently informal commercial arrangement into a more structured, artisan-empowering value chain.

Performing arts and cultural festival programming within the territory is evidenced by events such as the Monsoon Festival discussed in Section 19.3, alongside what this Framework assesses to be likely tribal dance and music traditions associated with the Warli, Dhodia, and Kokna communities, consistent with the broader pattern of tribal performing arts documented across comparable indigenous communities elsewhere in western India, though this Framework did not identify a dedicated, standalone inventory of tribal performing arts traditions specific to the territory with sufficient detail for direct citation in this chapter.

19.6 Film, Media and Content Industries as Economic Drivers

Film and media industry activity within the territory, distinct from the broader creative industries discussed in Section 19.5, was not identified as a significantly developed economic sub-sector based on the sources reviewed for this chapter. The territory's compact scale, discussed throughout this Framework, and its comparatively modest population base, discussed in Chapter 1, suggest that a dedicated, standalone film and media production ecosystem of the kind found in states such as Maharashtra or Tamil Nadu is unlikely to have developed independently within the territory, though the territory's striking coastal and heritage architecture, particularly Diu Fort and Daman's colonial churches discussed in Section 19.1, present clear potential as film shooting locations, a location-based film tourism



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opportunity this Framework did not find direct evidence of the territory having yet systematically developed or marketed.

Given the demonstrated success of location-based film tourism in comparable heritage destinations elsewhere in India, including Rajasthan's forts and Goa's own Portuguese colonial architecture, this Framework recommends the territory's Department of Tourism, in coordination with state and national film facilitation bodies, actively develop and market the territory's heritage architecture as a film and content production location, an initiative that could generate direct location fee revenue alongside the substantial secondary tourism promotion benefit that successful film and television productions frequently generate for their shooting locations, a benefit particularly well documented in the case of Goa's own Portuguese heritage architecture following its extensive use in Indian cinema.

Drawing together the findings of this chapter, this Framework's overall assessment is that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu possesses a genuinely rich and geographically diverse tourism asset base, spanning colonial heritage forts and churches, natural lakes and wildlife sanctuaries, coastal beaches, and an increasingly well-marketed tribal cultural heritage sector anchored in Warli painting, with tourism infrastructure and connectivity, particularly Diu's rapidly growing air access documented in Chapter 8, expanding at a genuinely rapid pace. The principal recommendations arising from this chapter, spanning comprehensive tourist arrival data disclosure, formal heritage structure inventory and Geographical Indication registration for Warli painting, and exploration of film tourism potential, all build on this already strong and diversifying asset base rather than requiring the territory to develop fundamentally new tourism infrastructure from scratch. Chapter 20's discussion of statistical system strengthening, and Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap, both connect to themes examined in this chapter, particularly regarding the continued need for improved tourism sector data disclosure to enable more precise tracking of this sector's substantial and evidently growing economic contribution to the territory.



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CHAPTER 20: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND INTEGRATED POLICY IMPERATIVES

This chapter synthesises seven themes that cut across the sectoral chapters examined throughout this Framework, drawing together findings on sustainable development goal performance, gender mainstreaming, youth policy, migration, science and technology, statistical system strengthening, and public participation. Rather than introducing new sectoral ground, this chapter's purpose is integrative, connecting patterns this Framework has documented repeatedly across Chapters 1 through 19 into a coherent set of cross-cutting policy imperatives.

20.1 Sustainable Development Goals of the State

The territory's Sustainable Development Goal performance, examined most directly in Chapter 1's discussion of the NITI Aayog SDG India Index, provides the clearest available composite lens through which to assess the territory's overall development trajectory. As established in that chapter, the territory moved from Aspirant status in the SDG India Index 2020-21 edition to Front Runner status by the 2023-24 edition, becoming one of ten new entrants nationally into that upper performance tier, and specifically ranking as the

top-performing Union Territory on SDG Goal 1, No Poverty (AffairsCloud, 2024; PIB, 2024). This aggregate trajectory is corroborated by the sector-specific SDG-linked achievements documented across this Framework, including the territory's Achiever stage classification on the composite SDG 6 water and sanitation index discussed in Chapter 10, its near-universal rural tap water coverage documented in that same chapter, and its favourable divergence from national childhood overweight trends discussed in Chapter 6.

At the same time, this Framework's chapter-by-chapter review has surfaced specific SDG-linked indicators where the territory's performance trails its strong aggregate index position, most notably the persistent sex ratio deficit in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district documented in Chapters 1 and 6, relevant to SDG 5 on gender equality, and the data transparency gaps affecting SDG 3 health monitoring, SDG 4 education outcome tracking, and SDG 8 decent work indicators, documented across Chapters 5, 6, and 17 respectively. This Framework's overall assessment is that the territory's SDG performance, while genuinely strong on the composite index, masks meaningful indicator-level unevenness that a more disaggregated, publicly disclosed SDG monitoring dashboard specific to the territory, updated annually rather than relying solely on the national index's periodic release cycle, would help both the territory administration and external observers track with greater precision.

20.2 Gender Mainstreaming Across Sectors

Gender considerations recur throughout this Framework in ways that resist a single, simple characterisation, a finding this chapter draws together explicitly. Chapter 1 established the demographically troubling decline in Dadra and Nagar Haveli district's sex ratio between 2001 and 2011, attributed to disproportionately male industrial in-migration, while Chapter 6 documented Diu district's markedly female-skewed sex ratio in the same period, illustrating that gender demographic patterns vary sharply across the territory's three districts rather than following a single territorial trend. Chapter 5 documented a persistent adult female literacy deficit alongside encouraging findings that girls currently enrolled in the territory's schools perform at or above national benchmarks on the 2024 PARAKH assessment, suggesting the gender gap in education is concentrated in historical attainment rather than current schooling outcomes. Chapter 7 documented the territory's constitutional one-third reservation for women in panchayat and municipal governance, alongside a dedicated Self Help Group

livelihood scheme offering seed funding and zero-interest loans specifically to women's groups, discussed in Chapter 12.

Drawing these threads together, this Framework's cross-cutting assessment is that gender mainstreaming within the territory would benefit most from a unified, territory-wide Gender Budgeting exercise, of the kind increasingly adopted by several Indian states, allocating and tracking public expenditure specifically by its gender-differentiated impact across the sectors examined in this Framework, from the SHG livelihood schemes discussed in Chapter 12 to the health system specialist gaps discussed in Chapter 6, which this Framework noted disproportionately affect obstetric and gynaecological care access. Such an exercise would allow the territory administration to move beyond the fragmented, sector-by-sector gender findings this Framework has necessarily presented across its nineteen preceding chapters toward a single, integrated gender equity accountability framework.

20.3 Youth Policy and Demographic Dividend Realisation

Youth policy considerations for the territory must account for the distinctive demographic reality established in Chapter 1 and reiterated throughout this Framework, namely that the territory's population growth has been driven substantially by working-age labour in-migration rather than by locally generated natural increase. This creates a youth policy context genuinely different from that facing most Indian states, where demographic dividend policy typically centres on a large, locally born youth cohort requiring education and employment pathways. In this territory, youth policy must instead address two distinct youth populations simultaneously, the territory's own resident youth, including the substantial tribal youth population documented in Chapter 7, and the youth cohort among the territory's migrant industrial workforce and their dependents, discussed extensively in Chapters 3 and 7.

Chapter 17's discussion of youth innovation infrastructure, including the Atal Innovation Mission architecture and this Framework's specific recommendation to extend Atal Tinkering Lab infrastructure into Nagar Haveli taluka's tribal schools, represents this Framework's primary youth policy recommendation for the territory's resident youth population. For the migrant worker youth population, this Framework recommends the territory administration assess the specific educational continuity needs of migrant workers' children, given the somewhat counter-intuitive finding discussed in Chapter 5 that urban schools in the territory underperformed rural schools on the 2024 PARAKH assessment, a pattern this Framework speculated in that chapter might reflect language and continuity disruptions facing migrant

workers' children enrolled in the territory's dense urban industrial school catchments, a hypothesis meriting further dedicated investigation as part of any comprehensive territorial youth policy framework.

20.4 Migration: Internal, Inter-State and International Dimensions

Migration constitutes perhaps the single most consequential demographic and economic force shaping this territory, a theme this Framework has returned to in nearly every preceding chapter. The scale of this migration is documented with unusual precision through Census of India migration data compiled by CEIC, which recorded the number of migrants in the former Daman and Diu Union Territory at 148,592 persons in the 2011 Census, more than doubling from 71,255 persons recorded in the 2001 Census, and rising sharply from just 27,040 persons recorded in the 1991 Census, illustrating an accelerating pace of in-migration across three successive census decades (CEIC, 2025). This trajectory directly corroborates the parallel finding this Framework has drawn from academic tribal demography research in Chapter 7, which identified the 2001 to 2011 intercensal population growth rate of 55.5 percent for the territory as the highest recorded of any state or Union Territory in India, attributing this overwhelmingly to non-tribal industrial labour in-migration rather than to natural population increase.

A comprehensive Human Development Report specific to Dadra and Nagar Haveli district, prepared jointly by the territory administrations, includes a dedicated migration chapter examining the place of origin of in-migrants by state, the distribution of migrant workers by nature of job, remuneration timing, and living arrangements, indicating that the territory administration itself has previously commissioned detailed, primary migration research of exactly the kind this Framework has recommended at several points across preceding chapters (Institute for Human Development, as cited in IHD India, 2025). Academic literature on internal migration in India specifically identifies Dadra and Nagar Haveli, alongside Chandigarh and Daman and Diu, among the smaller states and Union Territories that have historically attracted migrants relocating toward economically developed regions in western India, while separately noting that female migration for marriage, the dominant driver of female migration nationally, was recorded at an unusually low 0.3 percent in Dadra and Nagar Haveli in 2001, the lowest such rate recorded among all Indian states and Union Territories that year, a finding consistent with this territory's migration pattern being driven overwhelmingly by economic and labour motivations rather than by the marriage-driven

migration pattern that dominates female migration flows elsewhere in India (Migration Letters, 2025).

This Framework's cross-cutting recommendation on migration is that the territory administration formally recognise labour migration as a defining, permanent structural feature of its demography and economy, rather than a transitional phenomenon, and design its housing policy, discussed in Chapter 11, its health system specialist capacity, discussed in Chapter 6, its educational continuity support, discussed in Section 20.3 above, and its social security portability arrangements, discussed in Chapter 7, explicitly around the needs of this migrant population as full and permanent stakeholders in the territory's development, building on the detailed primary research foundation the territory administration has already established through its own Human Development Report migration chapter discussed above.

20.5 Science, Technology and Innovation for Development

Science, technology, and innovation themes recur across this Framework's treatment of Chapter 16's technology-enabled governance architecture and Chapter 17's innovation ecosystem, and this section draws these threads together into a single integrated assessment. Chapter 16 documented the territory's National e-Governance Award, its confirmed State Wide Area Network connectivity, and its extensive roster of implemented Mission Mode Projects, establishing a genuinely strong digital governance foundation. Chapter 17 documented the territory's Startup and Innovation Policy 2020, its participation in the national Startup Ranking Framework, and its concrete, demand-aligned skill development infrastructure, including the ITI's dedicated Plastic Processing Operator trade discussed in that chapter.

This Framework's cross-cutting assessment is that the territory's science, technology, and innovation ecosystem is distinguished by a consistent pattern of practical, economically grounded application, oriented toward strengthening the territory's existing industrial and governance capabilities rather than pursuing more speculative, disconnected innovation initiatives. This grounded orientation represents a genuine strength for near-term development outcomes, though this Framework recommends, consistent with Chapter 17's specific recommendations, that the territory begin cultivating parallel, longer-horizon innovation capacity, particularly in emerging technology domains such as artificial intelligence applications for governance and industry, to ensure the territory's innovation

ecosystem remains adaptable as its economic base continues to evolve over the period covered by this Framework's Vision 2047 planning horizon, discussed in Chapter 21.

20.6 Statistical System Strengthening and Evidence-Based Policymaking

This section addresses directly the single most consistently recurring theme across this entire Framework, one this Framework has flagged in some form in nearly every one of its preceding nineteen chapters, namely the comparative thinness of disaggregated, territory-specific statistical reporting available for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu relative to India's major states. This gap is not uniform. Chapter 10's water and sanitation data, drawing on the Jal Jeevan Mission functionality assessment survey, and Chapter 6's health data, drawing on the NFHS-5 district fact sheets, both demonstrate that rigorous, disaggregated data collection is entirely achievable for this territory when a dedicated national survey instrument is deployed. By contrast, Chapters 2, 3, 11, 12, 15, and 18 each identified specific domains, spanning municipal finance, GSDP estimation, MGNREGA implementation, civil service vacancy rates, and agricultural credit penetration, where comparable disaggregated data proved unavailable.

This Framework's central, integrative recommendation across this entire document is that the territory administration establish a dedicated Territorial Statistical Strengthening Unit, potentially housed within the Planning and Statistics Department referenced in Chapter 15's departmental directory listing, with a specific mandate to systematically extend the same rigour of data collection and public disclosure already demonstrated in the territory's water, sanitation, and health sectors across every other sectoral domain examined in this Framework. Given the territory's demonstrated digital governance capability, documented extensively in Chapter 16, this Framework assesses that the primary constraint on improved statistical disclosure is very likely institutional prioritisation and resourcing rather than any fundamental technical capacity limitation, meaning this recommendation represents a genuinely achievable, near-term institutional reform rather than a longer-horizon capacity-building undertaking.

20.7 Public Participation: Behavioural Change and Citizen Engagement

Public participation architecture within the territory, examined most directly in Chapter 16's discussion of the national MyGov platform's dedicated territorial microsite and its Smart City Diu citizen engagement group, alongside Chapter 15's discussion of the territory's Right of



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Citizens to Public Services legislative framework, provides residents with formal channels for civic engagement and grievance redressal. Chapter 11's discussion of the territory's compact, three-municipality urban governance structure further suggested that the territory's small population scale creates conditions favourable to intensive, direct citizen engagement, in principle more tractable than the participation challenges facing India's much larger state governments and metropolitan municipal corporations.

This Framework's cross-cutting assessment is that the territory has established the necessary formal institutional channels for public participation, evidenced by the MyGov platform, the Right of Citizens to Public Services framework, and the constitutionally mandated panchayat and municipal reservation architecture discussed in Chapter 7, but that the actual, substantive utilisation and effectiveness of these channels, as distinct from their mere formal existence, was not comprehensively documented in the sources reviewed across this Framework's nineteen preceding chapters. This Framework recommends the territory administration commission a dedicated citizen satisfaction and civic participation survey, potentially building on the same Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing methodology successfully deployed for the Jal Jeevan Mission functionality assessment discussed in Chapter 10, to establish a rigorous, quantified baseline for public participation effectiveness across the territory's various citizen engagement mechanisms, extending the territory's demonstrated strength in rigorous sectoral survey methodology into this specific governance domain.

Drawing together the seven themes examined in this chapter, this Framework's overall cross-cutting assessment is that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu presents a development profile characterised by genuine, independently verified strength in specific, demonstrated domains, water and sanitation, digital governance, disaster risk reduction institutional architecture, and composite SDG performance, set against a consistent pattern of statistical and data transparency gaps that this chapter's Section 20.6 recommendation directly addresses as the single most consequential, achievable institutional reform available to the territory administration. Chapter 21's concluding Vision 2047 roadmap draws directly on every theme examined across this Framework's twenty chapters, including each of the seven cross-cutting imperatives synthesised in this chapter, to articulate the territory's long-term strategic development trajectory.



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CHAPTER 21: STATE VISION 2047 — STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

This concluding chapter draws together the findings of the preceding twenty chapters into a forward-looking strategic roadmap for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, extending through 2047, the centenary of India's independence, a horizon the territory administration has itself already begun to reference through its own Vision 2047 strategic framework, discussed in Chapter 9's treatment of the territory's renewable energy expansion target. This chapter examines the territory's long-term vision, medium-term action priorities, financing strategy, Centre-Territory partnership architecture, regional and international cooperation, monitoring framework, and accountability architecture across eight sections.

21.1 Long-Term Vision and Flagship Missions

The clearest, most concretely evidenced articulation of the territory's own long-term vision identified across this entire Framework is the renewable energy expansion target discussed in Chapter 9, under which Invest India's territory investment profile confirms the Union Territory is targeting growth in renewable energy capacity from approximately 52 megawatts to 500 megawatts, a target the source explicitly identifies as guided by the territory's long-term Vision 2047 strategic framework (Invest India, 2026). This single, quantified target, while specific to the energy sector, offers a useful anchor point for this Framework's broader synthesis, since a nearly tenfold expansion in renewable generation capacity within a territory of only 603 square kilometres, documented in Chapter 1, implies a Vision 2047 strategy oriented toward deepening and greening the territory's existing industrial base rather than fundamentally reorienting the territory's economic identity away from manufacturing.

Building on this energy sector anchor, and drawing together the findings of Chapters 1 through 20, this Framework proposes that the territory's long-term vision be understood as resting on four mutually reinforcing flagship missions. The first is continued leadership in high-value, increasingly green manufacturing, building on the territory's documented dominance in polyester and plastics production discussed in Chapter 3, the diversification into metals evidenced by the Hindalco investment discussed in Chapter 4, and the renewable energy target discussed above. The second is inclusive tribal development, building on the TRIFED partnership, the tribal-prioritised housing targeting, and the Warli painting creative economy channel documented across Chapters 7, 12, and 19 respectively. The third is digital governance leadership, building on the territory's National e-Governance Award and extensive Mission Mode Project implementation documented in Chapter 16. The fourth is heritage-anchored tourism growth, building on Diu's rapidly expanding air connectivity and

the territory's rich Portuguese colonial and tribal cultural heritage documented in Chapter 19. This Framework recommends the territory administration formally articulate and publicly release a comprehensive Vision 2047 document structured explicitly around these four missions, since the fragments of this vision currently identifiable, such as the renewable energy target discussed above, remain scattered across sector-specific sources rather than consolidated into a single, authoritative strategic statement.

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

Drawing on the specific, time-bound recommendations this Framework has identified across its preceding chapters, a coherent medium-term action agenda for the 2025 to 2030 period emerges around five priority clusters. First, closing the data transparency gaps identified as this Framework's single most recurring theme, discussed most directly in Chapter 20's Section 20.6, through the establishment of a dedicated Territorial Statistical Strengthening Unit, a reform this Framework assesses as achievable within this five-year window given the territory's already demonstrated digital governance capacity documented in Chapter 16.

Second, addressing the specifically identified health system gap in obstetric, gynaecological, and paediatric specialist staffing, documented in Chapter 6 as an explicitly acknowledged finding of the National Health Mission's own Common Review Mission, a targeted recruitment and incentive intervention this Framework assessed in that chapter as an immediate rather than long-term priority given its direct bearing on maternal and child health outcomes. Third, completing the comprehensive, all-sector State Action Plan on Climate Change identified in Chapter 14 as the territory's clearest specific climate governance gap, building directly on the already-completed, health-sector-specific SAPCCHH methodology documented in that same chapter. Fourth, expanding the ITI network's demonstrated success in tribal-area skill infrastructure, exemplified by the Khanvel Industrial Training Institute discussed in Chapter 17, alongside continued extension of Atal Tinkering Lab infrastructure into Nagar Haveli taluka's tribal schools, discussed in Chapter 20's youth policy synthesis. Fifth, formalising the territory's currently informal but evidently successful Warli painting tourism-heritage economic channel, discussed in Chapter 19, through Geographical Indication registration and expanded artisan cooperative support, connecting the territory's tribal cultural heritage more systematically to its growing tourism economy.

This Framework assesses these five priorities as sequenced appropriately for a five-year window precisely because each builds on institutional capacity, data, or infrastructure this

Framework has documented as already existing within the territory, whether the SAPCCHH methodology, the Khanvel ITI precedent, the Kilvani Road market channel, or the territory's digital governance award, rather than requiring the territory to build fundamentally new institutional capability from first principles.

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

The territory's financing strategy for its Vision 2047 ambitions must be understood, as Chapter 2 established at length, within the specific constraint of its Union Budget-financed fiscal architecture, since the territory does not independently access capital markets or benefit from Finance Commission tax devolution in the manner of a full state. Within this constraint, Chapter 2 documented a genuinely favourable underlying fiscal trajectory, steady year-on-year growth in the territory's Union Budget allocation, a capital-to-revenue expenditure ratio of approximately 38 to 39 percent that compares favourably to many fiscally stressed states, and GST revenue that more than doubled between 2017-18 and 2024-25, discussed extensively in that chapter.

Resource mobilisation strategy going forward should build on this documented strength in three specific ways. First, continued own-revenue growth through GST base expansion, building on the territory's doubled taxpayer registration base documented in Chapter 2, as the territory's dominant manufacturing sector continues its export growth trajectory documented in Chapter 3. Second, more actively leveraging the Public-Private Partnership pipeline development recommended in Chapter 4, particularly in tourism hospitality infrastructure and the Blue Port fisheries modernisation opportunity discussed in Chapters 8 and 18, to supplement direct budgetary capital expenditure with private capital in domains beyond the territory's traditional manufacturing investment focus. Third, ensuring continued, predictable multi-year Union Budget capital expenditure commitments specifically for the transport and energy infrastructure priorities identified in Chapters 8 and 9, given the direct dependence of the territory's export-oriented manufacturing base on this infrastructure. Expenditure rationalisation, meanwhile, should focus on the Outcome Budget publication recommendation from Chapter 2, ensuring that the territory's already comparatively favourable capital expenditure share translates into measurable, publicly tracked developmental outcomes across the sectors examined throughout this Framework.

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

The territory's relationship with the Union Government, examined throughout this Framework, particularly in Chapters 2 and 15, represents both the defining structural constraint on the territory's fiscal and legislative autonomy and, simultaneously, a significant source of demonstrated developmental achievement, evidenced by the territory's participation in and successful implementation of numerous centrally sponsored schemes documented across this Framework, including the Jal Jeevan Mission discussed in Chapter 10, the RAMP MSME strengthening programme discussed in Chapter 4, the Aspirational Blocks Programme discussed in Chapter 1, and the TRIFED Van Dhan Yojana partnership discussed in Chapter 7.

This Framework's assessment is that the territory's continued development through 2047 should embrace, rather than seek to fundamentally restructure, this Centre-Territory partnership model, given the genuinely strong track record of scheme implementation documented throughout this Framework, while advocating specifically for two refinements. First, continued and expanded access to Finance Commission-linked grant mechanisms of the kind discussed in Chapter 2, even absent full tax devolution, particularly for disaster management and local body strengthening grants. Second, formal inclusion of the territory's specific infrastructure priorities, including the Daman fishing harbour's inclusion in the national Blue Port programme discussed in Chapters 8 and 18, and continued Ministry of Railways engagement on the territory's specific connectivity needs within the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor discussed in Chapter 8, within the relevant central ministries' own forward planning processes.

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

The territory's deep functional integration with neighbouring Gujarat and Maharashtra, documented extensively throughout this Framework, from the Vapi-Silvassa-Daman industrial corridor discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, to the shared Daman Ganga Reservoir financing arrangement discussed in Chapter 2, to the higher education and judicial affiliations with Gujarat institutions discussed in Chapters 5 and 15, represents one of this Framework's most consistently documented structural features. Chapter 4 specifically recommended deepening this relationship through a formal joint industrial corridor planning body involving the territory, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, a recommendation this concluding chapter reaffirms

as a priority specifically for the 2025 to 2030 medium-term window discussed in Section 21.2.

Beyond industrial corridor planning, this Framework identifies water resource governance as a second, specific domain warranting formalised inter-state cooperation, building on the Damanganga Irrigation Project joint venture discussed in Chapter 18 and the broader Daman Ganga basin water allocation questions discussed in Chapter 10. This Framework recommends the territory administration pursue formal river basin cooperation architecture with Gujarat specifically for the Daman Ganga system, given the river's centrality to the territory's water security, discussed in Chapter 10, and its ecological health, discussed in Chapter 13, both domains where this Framework identified specific data and institutional transparency gaps that closer formal cooperation with the river's upstream state partner could help address.

21.6 International Collaboration: Common Development Agenda and Global Partnership

International collaboration relevant to the territory, examined across this Framework, centres most concretely on the September 2025 partnership between India and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop Blue Port infrastructure nationally, discussed in Chapters 3, 8, 13, and 18, a programme this Framework has repeatedly identified as directly relevant to Daman's fishing harbour modernisation potential. Beyond this specific partnership, the territory's export orientation, documented in Chapter 3 at over 40,000 crore rupees in merchandise exports for 2024-25, and its recorded Foreign Direct Investment inflows, documented in Chapter 4, together indicate a territory already substantially integrated into global trade and investment flows, even without a dedicated, standalone international cooperation office of the kind larger states maintain.

This Framework recommends the territory administration formalise its engagement with this Blue Port international partnership specifically, and more broadly explore participation in international city and territory-level sustainability and heritage networks relevant to its renewable energy leadership, discussed in Chapter 9, and its Portuguese colonial heritage architecture, discussed in Chapter 19, given the potential for such networks to provide both technical knowledge exchange and international visibility supporting the territory's tourism and green economy transition goals discussed throughout this Framework.

21.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Results Framework

A results framework for tracking progress against the priorities articulated throughout this chapter should draw directly on the specific, quantified indicators this Framework has identified across its preceding chapters wherever such indicators exist, while explicitly flagging the domains requiring new indicator development. Existing, trackable indicators include the SDG India Index score discussed in Chapter 1 and Section 20.1, the renewable energy capacity figure discussed in Chapter 9 and Section 21.1, the GST collection and taxpayer registration figures discussed in Chapter 2, the Jal Jeevan Mission functionality percentages discussed in Chapter 10, and the Diu Airport passenger growth figures discussed in Chapters 8 and 19.

For domains where this Framework identified data gaps, including municipal finance, discussed in Chapter 11, MGNREGA implementation, discussed in Chapter 12, and civil service vacancy rates, discussed in Chapter 15, this Framework recommends the proposed Territorial Statistical Strengthening Unit, discussed in Section 21.2, take direct responsibility for establishing baseline measurement and regular reporting cadence as a foundational, prerequisite step before meaningful progress monitoring against Vision 2047 targets in these specific domains becomes possible. This Framework recommends an annual Vision 2047 progress report, structured explicitly around the twenty-one chapters of this Framework, as the primary institutional vehicle for this monitoring and evaluation function, ensuring continuity between this Framework's baseline assessment and the territory's forward tracking of its own development trajectory.

21.8 Accountability Architecture: Legislature, Civil Society and Citizens

Accountability for the Vision 2047 roadmap articulated in this chapter must operate, as this Framework has emphasised throughout, within the territory's distinctive governance structure, an appointed Administrator rather than an elected government, discussed extensively in Chapters 1, 2, and 15. Within this structure, this Framework identifies three specific, existing accountability channels that should be strengthened and more systematically utilised. First, the reserved Lok Sabha constituency for Dadra and Nagar Haveli, discussed in Chapter 7, and the Daman and Diu constituency, both of which provide the territory's population with direct national parliamentary representation and a channel through which Vision 2047 progress can be raised in national legislative fora. Second, the



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panchayat and municipal governance structures discussed in Chapters 11 and 12, which, notwithstanding the absence of a territorial legislature, provide grassroots elected representation through which citizen accountability for local implementation of this Framework's recommendations can be exercised. Third, the MyGov citizen engagement platform and Right of Citizens to Public Services legislative framework discussed in Chapter 16, which provide formal, if this Framework noted in Chapter 20 as insufficiently evaluated, channels for direct citizen feedback on service delivery performance.

This Framework recommends the territory administration establish a dedicated Vision 2047 Citizens' Advisory Council, drawing representation from the territory's panchayat and municipal elected bodies, its Scheduled Tribe community leadership discussed in Chapter 7, its industrial and MSME sector representatives discussed in Chapter 4, and civil society organisations, to provide a standing, formalised mechanism for citizen and stakeholder input into the annual progress reporting process recommended in Section 21.7, ensuring that the accountability architecture for this Framework's recommendations extends meaningfully beyond internal administrative reporting into genuine public and civil society oversight, notwithstanding the structural absence of the elected legislative accountability mechanism available to India's full states.

Drawing together the full twenty-one chapters of this Comprehensive Development Framework, the strategic conclusion this document reaches is that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, despite its small size and its structurally distinct, non-legislature Union Territory governance model, has built a genuinely substantial foundation for continued development through 2047, evidenced concretely across this Framework by its dominant position in India's polyester and plastics manufacturing, its Front Runner SDG performance, its award-winning digital governance architecture, its near-universal water and sanitation coverage, its rapidly growing tourism sector, and its demonstrated, evidence-based tribal welfare programming. The recurring theme of data and statistical transparency gaps, identified consistently across this Framework's chapters and synthesised in Chapter 20, represents this document's single clearest, most actionable institutional recommendation, one that, if addressed through the Territorial Statistical Strengthening Unit proposed in this chapter, would enable the territory administration, the Union Government, and the territory's own citizens to track the ambitious but genuinely achievable Vision 2047 trajectory this Framework has outlined with the same rigour and precision this document has sought to



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bring, wherever the underlying data allowed, to its assessment of the territory as it stands today, in 2026.

END NOTE

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu stands, in 2026, at a distinctive juncture in its development journey. Six years after the historic merger of its two constituent Union Territories, this compact administration has demonstrated that scale need not be a barrier to meaningful development outcomes. From near-universal rural drinking water coverage to a Front Runner ranking on the national Sustainable Development Goals index, from a manufacturing base that anchors a significant share of India's polyester and plastics production to a digital governance architecture recognised with a National e-Governance Award, this Framework has documented a territory whose achievements consistently outpace what its small geographic and demographic footprint might suggest.

This Comprehensive Development Framework has been prepared in the belief that informed, evidence-based planning is the surest foundation for continued progress. Across its twenty-one chapters, the Framework has sought not merely to catalogue statistics but to identify the structural threads, industrial concentration, tribal welfare, migration, fiscal dependency on the Union Budget, and administrative compactness, that run through and connect the territory's many sectors. Where data has been robust, this Framework has drawn firm conclusions. Where it has been thin, this Framework has said so plainly, in the



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conviction that an honest accounting of what is not yet known is itself a contribution to better governance.

The path to 2047 outlined in the concluding chapter of this Framework is ambitious but grounded, built on achievements already realised rather than aspirations alone. It calls for closing specific, identified gaps, in specialist healthcare staffing, in comprehensive climate action planning, in statistical disclosure, while building further on established strengths in renewable energy, digital service delivery, tribal-inclusive welfare programming, and export-oriented manufacturing.

This Framework is offered as a working reference for policymakers, administrators, researchers, and the citizens of this Union Territory, in the hope that it will inform the decisions, investments, and partnerships that will carry Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu forward over the coming decades.

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