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From Vision to Reality: Achieving Sustainable Growth and Development in Telangana and Beyond

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Abstract

Telangana, a dynamic state in India, is poised to play a pivotal role in the nation's journey toward Vision 2047, aiming to become a $3 trillion economy by that year. This seminar explores the pathways to achieve sustainable growth and development in Telangana, with a focus on economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Achieving a prosperous and sustainable future requires a multifaceted approach that blends innovation, infrastructure development, and inclusive growth.

Key strategies for Telangana's economic advancement include leveraging its strengths in technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. The state's thriving IT sector, coupled with advancements in agri-tech and industrial modernization, can serve as critical drivers for job creation and economic diversification. At the same time, Telangana must prioritize sustainable infrastructure—building climate-resilient cities, efficient waste management systems, and green energy solutions to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

The seminar will also emphasize the importance of inclusive development, particularly in empowering women, engaging youth, and addressing the needs of marginalized communities. Social welfare initiatives, such as farmers' welfare programs and poverty alleviation measures, will be essential in ensuring that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed.

A key theme will be the importance of collaboration between government, industry, academia, and civil society to drive this vision forward. By fostering a strong partnership ecosystem, Telangana can position itself as a model for other states and contribute significantly to India's Vision 2047 of becoming a global economic powerhouse.

Keywords: *Telangana; Vision 2047; Sustainable Growth; Economic Development; Infrastructure.*

1. Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital part in the economy of India and is the most important source of livelihood in the country. It is responsible for employing sixty percent of the workforce in India and generating approximately seventeen percent of the country's gross domestic product. The returns from agriculture do not appear to be lucrative, despite the fact that there are a number of efforts that are designed to help agriculture, such as providing subsidized fertilizers, irrigation infrastructure, crop insurance, and minimum support prices for commodities.

Evidently, there is also an increasing emphasis on the utilization of technology and innovation in agriculture. This includes the implementation of techniques for precision farming, remote sensing, drones, and the development of digital platforms for the purpose of gaining access to markets and disseminating information. The term "digital public infrastructure" (DPI) refers to a collection of digital platforms and information technology systems that make it possible for the public to benefit. There are a wide variety of reasons why the process of exchanging data in order to

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facilitate the development of applications or services is hard. When one makes the decision to develop an application for the purpose of providing a public service, the single most difficult challenge is the availability of data. The capacity of application developers, and especially start-ups, to experiment and create with new data-driven services is something that has to be encouraged.

ADeX, which stands for Agricultural Data Exchange, is a digital public infrastructure that was built by the Government of Telangana. Its purpose is to promote the development of new apps, modernize farming techniques, and drive innovation in order to empower farmers, researchers, and policymakers alike. Among the various stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem, ADeX makes it possible for information and insights to flow without interruption. Through the facilitation of data interchange, the entire agricultural community is able to utilize collective knowledge and generate systemic improvements. These gains can be achieved through the detection of industry-wide trends, the benchmarking of performance, and the dissemination of information regarding best practices. Through the democratization and standardization of access to agricultural data, ADeX assists innovators in concentrating their efforts on the development of solutions for the farming ecosystem. ADeX does not store any data on its own, but it does provide a standards-based catalogue of available agricultural data, a comprehensive set of authorization and consent management capabilities, standardized application programming interfaces (APIs) and data models to make data available, and a suite of analytics to assist in the development of use cases and solutions that can be of benefit to farmers and the farming ecosystem.

As part of the plan that the state government of Telangana has devised to reach the objective of having a $3 trillion GDP by the year 2047, the state would be divided into three zones.

On the occasion of the Telangana Rising global conference, which is slated to take place the following month, the Telangana Rising 2047 vision paper is going to be presented. The plan that the government will use to reach its aim of having an economy worth $1 trillion by the year 2034 and $3 trillion by the year 2047 is being finalized. To facilitate the progression of the state along the path of development, the Chief Minister gave the order to the officials to partition the state into three distinct zones. The development of three regions—the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), the Peri Urban Region Economy (PURE), and the Rural Agriculture Region Economy (RARE)—will be underlined in the paper. Additionally, the document will ensure that there will be no policy paralysis in the state. It was his opinion that the designs and plans ought to be finalized in a manner that reflected a realistic perspective. It was emphasized by the Chief Minister that the Vision 2047 should be formulated with the objective of ensuring that all individuals have equal access to opportunities and that the future activities should be sustainable for the next 22 years. In preparation for the global conference that will take place on December 8 and 9, the government has already begun the process of creating the Bharat Future City. The primary purpose of the summit is to demonstrate to investors from around the world the numerous opportunities for investment that exist in Telangana, as well as the advantages that come with investing in the state over the course of the two-day event. The purpose of the summit, which is being hosted in the Future City, is to provide an explanation of the potential for industrial development in many sectors and to announce the various forms of incentives that are being provided by the government. The paper that will be referred to as Telangana Rising Vision 2047 will center on equitable growth, the empowerment of women, the empowerment of all young people, and sustainable development. The purpose of the vision paper is to showcase Telangana as the economic hub in India that is expanding at the fastest rate. In spite of the fact that Telangana is a relatively small state, the administration will demonstrate to the rest of the world the vast prospects that are accessible here. According to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the country is making progress in order to compete not only with neighboring states but also with China and Japan in terms of growth. In the next twenty years, the government is firmly of the opinion that certain industries, including as pharmaceuticals, life sciences, aerospace, quantum technology, artificial intelligence (AI), startups, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), tourism, and exports, will be essential to the expansion of the economy. As a result of the government of Telangana's provision of global capacity centers (GCCs), transparent governance, and ease of doing business, the state is already establishing itself as the most desirable location for investors. In order to entice additional investments, the document that will serve as the vision will be founded on these strengths. As part of the vision document, the agricultural sector will also be given emphasis in order to increase the income of farmers by a factor of two and to boost the economy of rural areas. The Chief Minister stated that the government intends to restore 2959 ponds, parks, and forest zones that are in danger of being

destroyed in order to accomplish the objective of "Blue & Green Hyderabad" as outlined in the Telangana 2047 plan. Priority will be given in the vision document to the objective of "Village 2.0," which is to supply the villages with clean roads, safe drinking water, and solar-powered lights. New airports will be established in Warangal, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Peddapalli, and Kothagudem as part of the creation of a new transport ecosystem. Additional goals of the creation of modern transport infrastructure include the development of the Regional Ring Road, also known as "Maniharam," for Telangana, along the lines of the Outer Ring Road, high-speed mobility corridors, Regional Ring Rail, four industrial corridors, and eleven radial roads. The construction of a cutting-edge roadway that connects Hyderabad (Future City) to Bandar Port in Andhra Pradesh will mark a significant step forward in terms of connectivity.

A number of years later, in 2014, the Government of India, taking a cue from the Gandhian Philosophy, launched an ambitious rural development initiative known as the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY). Under this program, every Member of Parliament is expected to adopt a village within their electoral constituency and work toward transforming it into a Model village (Government of India, 2014). According to Garg and Raut (2015), the SAGY is founded on the "Gandhian philosophy of Adarsh Gram or Ideal Village or Model Village." According to Tiwari et al. (2019), the distinguishing characteristics of SAGY are that it is (a) driven by demand, (b) inspired by society, and (c) based on the engagement of individuals of the community. Taking into consideration the current circumstances, it was initiated with the purpose of bringing into existence the all-encompassing vision that Mahatma Gandhi had regarding an ideal and sustainable Indian village. It is possible to refer to SAGY villages as Aspiring Models since, as part of the SAGY program, interventions for social and infrastructure development are carried out in order to transform the village into a Model village.

A decade has passed since the implementation of SAGY, but except some post-project and third party evaluation efforts (Joshi et al., 2021) and occasional comparative studies with other RDPs (Mishra, 2016; Zafar, 2015; Venkatareddy, 2021; Baldaniya and Bhoye, 2019, 2021; Singh et al., 2023), there has not been any comparative assessment of SAGY villages (the “Reality” based on realistic approach) with the Model villages of the past philanthropists (the “Philosophy” based on philosophical approach).

2. Conclusion

The evolving notion of development, the comparative nature of model villages, and the necessity to measure progress for assessing the efficacy of rural development initiatives have emerged as significant issues for social science researchers, governmental agencies, and policymakers aiming to enhance the rural segment of society. This study aimed to select a framework for assessing rural progressiveness and to build a comprehensive indexing approach, which has significant implications and potential for global replication, with or without adjustments. In the context of climate change, the RFSI indicators may be adjusted to incorporate climate-smart agriculture (CSA) strategies to encourage collaborative efforts among farmers, researchers, the private sector, civil society, and policymakers towards climate-resilient pathways, including (1) establishing evidence; (2) enhancing local institutional efficacy; (3) promoting alignment between climate and agricultural policies; and (4) connecting climate and agricultural financing (Lipper et al., 2014). The rural development indices established in this study provide direct feedback on the SAGY RDP and have enduring consequences for sustainable agri-food systems, food security, crop sustainability, crop-based rural livelihoods, and climate resilience in policy-making. Climate change is an unavoidable yet manageable phenomenon that significantly affects the global agri-food system, which employs approximately 1.23 billion individuals worldwide (FAO, 2024). The regions and populations most adversely affected are those facing substantial developmental constraints, including poverty, governance issues, limited access to essential services and resources, violent conflict, and high reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods, such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fishing communities (IPCC, 2023). Consequently, the RECSI, RFSI, and RLSI indices established in this study are pivotal for the realization of a rural sustainability framework, applicable not only within the Indian context but also in other emerging countries globally. The indices can be improved by incorporating climate-smart agriculture (CSA) indicators, which is the sole solution for addressing climate adaptation. Given that rural lives are inextricably linked to agriculture, particularly in developing nations, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is crucial for alleviating the impacts of climate change and enhancing resilience. CSA is a methodology for establishing the technological, policy,

and investment frameworks necessary to attain sustainable agricultural development for food security in the context of climate change. The CSA methodology aims to recognize and implement sustainable agricultural growth within the specific context of climate change (FAO, 2013). Research has demonstrated that the average income of agricultural households in climate-smart villages exceeds that of conventional villages by 40%, with farmers in climate-smart villages seeing a 19.5% advantage during drought conditions (Samuel et al., 2024). In the Ethiopian highlands, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) strategies have enhanced the climate resilience of smallholder farmers (Teklu et al., 2023). Implementing CSA procedures enhanced crop yields, productivity, income, profitability, and the efficiency of technological and resource utilization, according to research conducted in China (Zheng et al., 2023). The indices created in this study can be further refined by incorporating socio-ecological dimensions of livelihood resilience, specifically buffer capacity, self-organization, and learning capacity, which have already been established as metrics of sustainability (Speranza et al., 2014). From an ecological and agricultural standpoint, the RECSI and RFSI indices can be adjusted to incorporate measures of land degradation as metrics of agricultural sustainability (Valjarević et al., 2025). Given that the Indian strategy for rural development is significantly influenced by Gandhian Philosophy of Self-Sustainability, it is crucial to assess Rural Development Programs (RDPs) in relation to this philosophy. The indicators created for evaluation can serve as benchmarks to evaluate not just the rural environment of SAGY and Model villages but also analogous rural development projects and ecosystems globally. This work employs innovative methodologies for index construction, ensuring statistical rigor via NUEPA and CATPCA techniques. In the future, the indices may be utilized by governmental and non-governmental development agencies, policymakers, and program administrators to assess and rank villages post-implementation of a program. The indices can function as a framework for formulating development projects for villages, as well as for regional and state-level planning.

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