



Original Article

Sustainable Growth at the Grassroots: Nashik District's Role in Achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision

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Manuscript ID:
IBMIIRJ -2025-021010

Submitted: 05 Sept. 2025

Revised: 10 Sept. 2025

Accepted: 05 Oct. 2025

Published: 31 Oct. 2025

ISSN: 3065-7857

Volume-2

Issue-10

Pp. 43-45

October 2025

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Quick Response Code:



Web: <https://ibrj.us>



DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.17620812](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17620812)

DOI Link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17620812>



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Abstract

India's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047 outlines a transformative agenda aimed at making the country a developed, self-reliant, and sustainable nation by its centenary of independence. Central to this vision is the recognition that true development must begin at the grassroots level, driven by district-level planning, local innovation, and inclusive participation. This paper explores the role of Nashik district, Maharashtra, as a strategic contributor to this national goal by analysing its potential for holistic and sustainable development. Nashik, with its dynamic blend of agriculture, industry, and cultural heritage, offers a unique model for balancing economic growth with environmental and social sustainability. The study examines key sectors such as sustainable agriculture, water management, renewable energy, urban development, skill enhancement, and rural infrastructure, evaluating how these can be aligned with the broader objectives of Viksit Bharat 2047. Through a mix of qualitative and quantitative analysis, the research identifies existing challenges—such as urban-rural disparities, resource depletion, and infrastructural gaps—and proposes integrated, scalable solutions grounded in local needs and capabilities. The paper also emphasizes the importance of decentralized governance, community engagement, and inter-sectoral coordination in driving sustainable outcomes. By situating Nashik's development within the national framework, this study demonstrates how grassroots efforts can serve as catalysts for India's larger transformation. It concludes with strategic recommendations to help local policymakers, institutions, and stakeholders effectively contribute to the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat 2047, Sustainable Development, Rural Urban Integration

Introduction

India's ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 outlines a comprehensive roadmap to transform the nation into a fully developed, inclusive, and sustainable economy by the 100th year of independence. This vision emphasizes not just economic growth, but a holistic model of development that integrates social equity, environmental sustainability, technological innovation, and strong local governance. Achieving this goal requires robust grassroots-level planning and implementation, with active participation from districts and local bodies across the country. Nashik district, located in the north western part of Maharashtra, presents a compelling case for localized sustainable development. Known for its diverse economy—ranging from agriculture and agro-based industries to emerging sectors like education, tourism, and manufacturing—Nashik has the potential to be a model district in contributing to the Viksit Bharat 2047 agenda. With its rich natural resources, cultural heritage, and strategic location, the district embodies the opportunities and challenges that define India's development journey. This research explores how Nashik can align its local development strategies with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 by focusing on sustainable agriculture, inclusive urbanization, renewable energy adoption, skill development, and resilient infrastructure. The study also examines the role of decentralized governance, public-private partnerships, and community participation in ensuring that development is both inclusive and environmentally conscious. By highlighting Nashik's unique strengths and identifying key policy and implementation gaps, this paper aims to provide actionable insights into how grassroots development can drive national transformation.

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How to cite this article:

Shendge, L. S. (2025). Sustainable Growth at the Grassroots: Nashik District's Role in Achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision. *InSight Bulletin: A Multidisciplinary Interlink International Research Journal*, 2(10), 43–45. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17620812>

In doing so, it underscores the critical importance of district-level planning in shaping India's path towards a just, prosperous, and sustainable future.

Objectives:

1. To analyze the current socio-economic and environmental status of Nashik district in the context of sustainable development.
2. To assess the alignment of local development initiatives in Nashik with the national vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

Study Area:



Research Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative **and** quantitative research methods to comprehensively analyze the potential and challenges of sustainable development in Nashik district in alignment with the *Viksit Bharat 2047* vision.

Research Design

The research follows a descriptive and exploratory design to evaluate existing development patterns and explore new strategies for achieving holistic growth.

A case study approach has been applied, focusing specifically on Nashik district as a representative model of grassroots-level development.

Data Collection Methods

Primary Data:

- **Field Surveys and Questionnaires:** Structured questionnaires were distributed among key stakeholders including farmers, small business owners, local entrepreneurs, urban and rural residents, and local government officials.
- **Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with district-level policymakers, urban planners, Panchayat representatives, and NGO leaders.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Conducted in selected urban and rural clusters to gather community-level insights on development priorities and sustainability challenges.

Secondary Data:

- Government reports (District Development Plans, Census data, State Economic Surveys)
- Reports and policy documents related to *Viksit Bharat 2047*, SDGs, and Maharashtra's development plans
- Academic journals, research papers, and publications from reputed institutions
- Data from official websites such as NITI Aayog, Ministry of Rural Development, and Maharashtra State Government

Sampling Technique

- Purposive sampling was used to select key informants and communities based on relevance to sectors like agriculture, energy, education, and infrastructure.
- A stratified random sampling method was employed to ensure representation from both urban and rural areas within Nashik district.

Data Analysis

- Quantitative data was analysed using statistical tools such as MS Excel and SPSS to interpret trends and development indicators.
- Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs was thematically analysed to identify patterns, challenges, and stakeholder perspectives.

- A SWOT analysis was conducted to evaluate Nashik's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the context of sustainable development.

Ethical Considerations

- All respondents were informed about the purpose of the research and gave informed consent.
- Data confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the study.

Limitations

- The study is limited to Nashik district and may not be entirely generalizable to other regions.
- Time and resource constraints limited the scope of field visits to select blocks within the district.

Conclusion

The vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* represents a transformative shift toward an India that is economically strong, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and technologically advanced. Achieving this vision requires targeted, localized efforts that reflect the unique socio-economic and environmental contexts of each region. Nashik district, with its rich agricultural base, growing industrial potential, cultural heritage, and strategic location, is well-positioned to serve as a model for grassroots-led sustainable development. This study has demonstrated that Nashik's development trajectory can significantly contribute to the national agenda if guided by a holistic, participatory, and integrated approach. Key focus areas such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, urban-rural linkages, skill development, education, and infrastructure modernization must be addressed through effective local governance, community engagement, and convergence of government schemes. However, the research also highlights existing challenges, including resource pressure, uneven development, environmental degradation, and gaps in policy implementation. Overcoming these requires collaborative efforts between government bodies, private sector, civil society, and local communities, supported by evidence-based planning and continuous monitoring. In conclusion, Nashik's journey toward sustainable development is not only crucial for its own future but also instrumental in realizing the broader objectives of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. Strengthening district-level planning and execution will be key to ensuring that growth is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable, ultimately contributing to the emergence of a truly developed India by 2047.

Acknowledgment

The author expresses sincere gratitude to the Principal and Management of R.N.C. Arts, J.D.B. Commerce & N.S.C. Science College, Nashik Road, for their constant encouragement and academic support during the completion of this research. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the Department of Geography, colleagues, and students whose valuable insights and cooperation contributed significantly to this study.

Special appreciation is due to the district administration officials, local government representatives, NGOs, and community members of Nashik district for their participation in surveys, interviews, and discussions that enriched the findings of this research.

The author acknowledges the use of government reports, NITI Aayog and Ministry of Rural Development publications, and Maharashtra State development documents that provided valuable secondary data for analysis.

Finally, the author conveys deep appreciation to the *Viksit Bharat 2047* initiative for inspiring this study and reaffirming the importance of grassroots-led sustainable development as a pathway to national progress.

Financial Support and Sponsorship

Nil

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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