FRONTLINE INTEGRATED SERVICES

JAMMU & KASHMIR COMPARATIVE INFOGRAPHIC ATLAS 20 DISTRICTS | 2026

Economic ? Social ? Infrastructure ? Employment

Research & Strategic Assessment: Maqbool Shah
14 October 2026

Historical demography: Census 2011

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DEVELOPMENT SERIES 2026 / 4 DISTRICTS

WESTERN HILLS, PIR PANJAL & TRIKUTA BELT

A COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN CAPITAL ATLAS

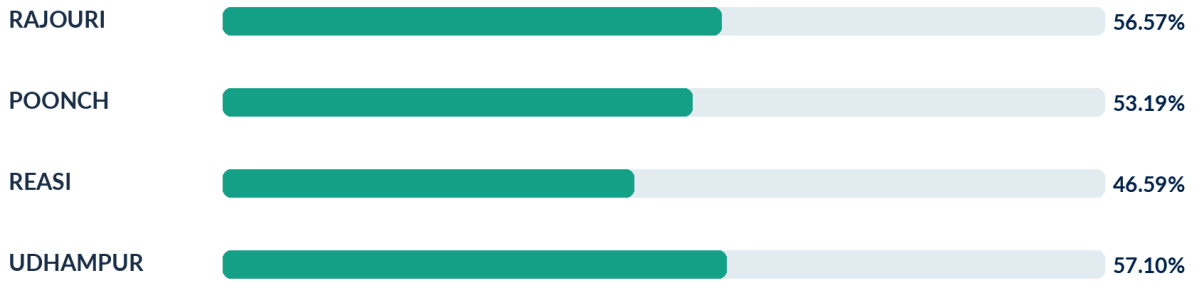
DISTRICTS	CENSUS 2011 POPULATION	HIGHEST LITERACY	LOWEST FEMALE LITERACY
4	19.89 lakh	68.49%	46.59%

OVERALL LITERACY / CENSUS 2011



Population + literacy figures refer to Census 2011

FEMALE LITERACY / CENSUS 2011



Female literacy spread: 10.51 percentage points

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

The crucial policy problem is unequal access: border and high-altitude settlements confront winter roads, dispersed schools and specialist-care deficits even as Katra and Udhampur benefit from railway and pilgrimage-linked markets.

ETHNO-REGIONAL LENS

Rajouri and Poonch are strongly associated with Pahari and Gujjar–Bakarwal social geographies alongside other communities; Reasi and Udhampur contain Dogri-speaking belts and diverse hill populations. Variation within districts is significant.

FIVE PRIORITIES

01 Make Pir Panjal border roads reliable and resilient
02 Turn pilgrim footfall into local non-farm value
03 Connect women to viable post-school pathways
04 Prioritise ambulances, referral travel and specialists
05 Build producer-to-market chains across the four districts

RAJOURI DISTRICT PROFILE

PIR PANJAL FRONTIER • UNIVERSITIES • LOCAL ENTERPRISE

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
6.42 lakh	68.17%	56.57%	860	2,630 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Rain-fed cultivation, livestock, trade, salaried services and a growing education economy anchor livelihoods. Rajouri has a mixed forest–foothill landscape; minerals are catalogued by the district administration but extraction potential must not be confused with established local employment.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Border-facing roads and the Rajouri–Poonch axis remain central to economic resilience. A sanctioned final-location survey for the Jammu/Reasi–Poonch rail proposal is an exploratory step, not an operational railway. The higher-education anchor is Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University and the district also has Government Medical College Rajouri. The next test is whether specialist care, teaching staff and affordable hostels reach Nowshera, Thanamandi, Darhal and other peripheral settlements.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Ministry of Railways reported in August 2026 that a final-location survey had been sanctioned for a proposed Jammu/Reasi–Poonch line; no completion date or rail service should be assumed.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

LoC vulnerability; dispersed villages; weather and slope exposure; dependence on public employment and small holdings.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Border connectivity and ambulances; vocational access for girls; horticulture and livestock value chains; local tourism guides and homestays.

MONITOR NEXT

Constituency-level road closure days, GMC referral times, female secondary-school retention, MSME survival after two years.

POONCH DISTRICT PROFILE

PIR PANJAL • LOC • MUGHAL ROAD

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
4.77 lakh	66.74%	53.19%	892	1,674 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture, small commerce, livestock, public employment and services dominate. The district agriculture department states that only 11.90% of the agricultural area had assured irrigation in its published profile; this is a source-era figure, not a verified 2026 rate.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Mughal Road connects Poonch to the Kashmir Valley through the high Pir Panjal and offers a strategic second route, although weather limits its reliability. Border villages need dependable local links, telecommunications and rapid referral transport. The district education portal lists extensive primary and middle-school provision, but attainment and dropout require more current school-level measurement. Poonch health department lists 186 facilities, including one district hospital, three CHCs and 17 PHCs; these counts are administrative, with publication dates to be rechecked.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Railways' August 2026 announcement confirms a survey for a possible Jammu/Reasi–Poonch line, not an approved construction timetable. Upgrades to border roads and all-weather access remain priority areas.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Cross-border exposure; seasonal closures; lower female literacy; fragmented value chains; service access across upland settlements.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Girls' secondary retention and hostels; highland road safety; agro-processing; district hospital referral capacity; responsible tourism.

MONITOR NEXT

Real travel times from Mandi and Mendhar to specialist care, irrigation coverage in 2026, working ambulances, women's employment placement outcomes.

REASI DISTRICT PROFILE

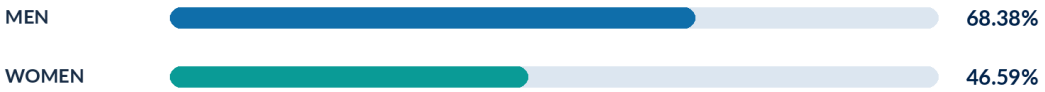
TRIKUTA • KATRA PILGRIMAGE • CHENAB RAIL BRIDGE

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
3.15 lakh	58.15%	46.59%	890	1,719 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture and livestock remain important away from the Katra–Vaishno Devi pilgrimage economy. Pilgrim demand can support transport, hospitality, food services and retail, but spending capture by local households varies substantially.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

The USBRL corridor and the Chenab and Anji rail bridges mark a major change in connectivity. The 272-km corridor was reported commissioned in 2026; this does not mean every remote village in Reasi has rail access. Reasi's 2011 female literacy of 46.59% is well below Jammu's. A social-sector strategy should track girls' transition into secondary education and participation in paid local enterprise rather than relying on aggregate school buildings.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Ministry of Railways reported the 272-km USBRL commissioned by August 2026, with the 1,315-m Chenab Bridge in Reasi; recorded physical access gains should now be tested against local business formation and village mobility.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Differences between high-footfall pilgrim zones and remote villages; limited female literacy; environmental load; fragile feeder roads.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Local procurement around Katra; women-led hospitality; rail station last-mile links; village health outreach; solid-waste management.

MONITOR NEXT

Pilgrimage jobs retained by resident households, secondary-school completion by girls, feeder-road travel times and tourism waste recovery.

UDHAMPUR DISTRICT PROFILE

LOGISTICS GATEWAY • RAIL • DEVIKA

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
5.55 lakh	68.49%	57.10%	870	2,380 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Services, transport, construction, small industry, agriculture and military-related demand sustain its role as a gateway between the Jammu plains and mountain corridors. Opportunities lie in logistics and compliant small manufacturing.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Rail and the NH-44 route bring market access, but the Chenani–Udhampur stretch has experienced landslides and temporary closures, including restoration works in July 2026. Resilience demands slope treatment and alternative access, not simply kilometres of new road. Female literacy reached 57.10% in the 2011 baseline. The district has colleges and a district-hospital system; there is a continuing need to measure specialist vacancies, practical skill certification and rural retention.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The district industries centre reports a land-bank transfer of approximately 8,527 kanals across 21 sites for proposed estates and clusters; transfer or planning is not equivalent to functioning factories.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Slope failure on strategic roads; development imbalance among Chenani, Ramnagar and remote areas; limited high-quality non-farm jobs.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Road-slope audits and route redundancy; MSME job verification; district-wide skill ladders; Devika catchment conservation.

MONITOR NEXT

Operational units and net local jobs at land-bank sites, closure hours on NH-44, district-hospital specialist vacancy rate, tourism household income.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

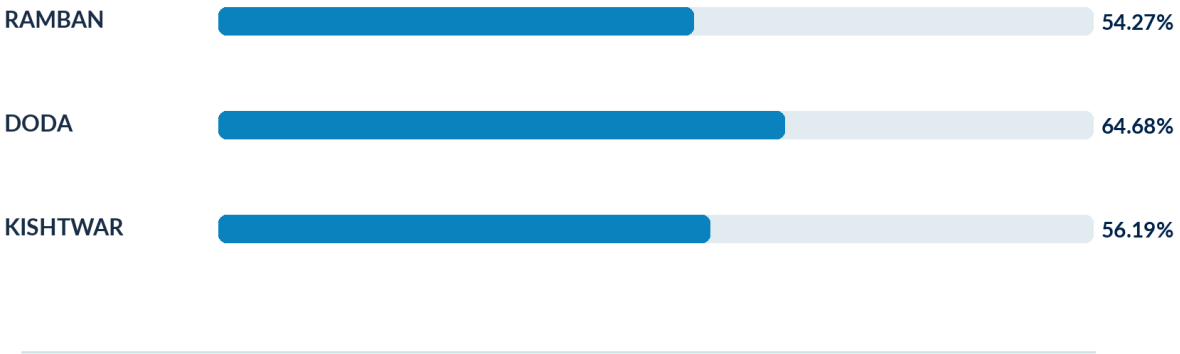
DEVELOPMENT SERIES 2026 / 3 DISTRICTS

CHENAB VALLEY

A COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN CAPITAL ATLAS

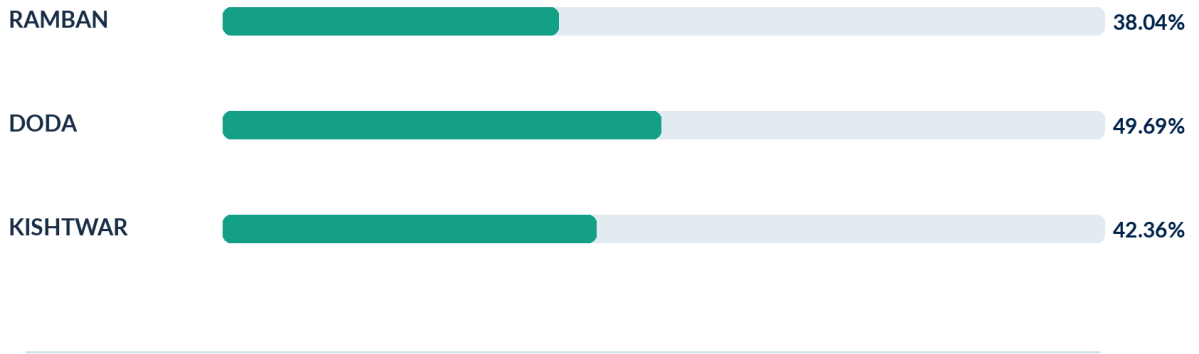
DISTRICTS	CENSUS 2011 POPULATION	HIGHEST LITERACY	LOWEST FEMALE LITERACY
3	9.24 lakh	64.68%	38.04%

OVERALL LITERACY / CENSUS 2011



Population + literacy figures refer to Census 2011

FEMALE LITERACY / CENSUS 2011



Female literacy spread: 11.65 percentage points

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Major highways, the USBRL rail corridor and hydropower assets coexist with fragile slopes, seasonal access, limited specialist care and major gaps in female literacy.

ETHNO-REGIONAL LENS

Language and social identities include varieties of Kashmiri, Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Poguli, Gojri, Kishtwari and other regional speech communities. Local identities cannot be reduced to a single label.

FIVE PRIORITIES

01 Audit slope safety along NH-44 and feeder roads
02 Translate hydro investments into transparent local benefits
03 Scale community health and girls' secondary access
04 Diversify Bhaderwah and Kishtwar eco-tourism
05 Build district employment outcome registries

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DEVELOPMENT SERIES 2026 / RAMBAN

RAMBAN DISTRICT PROFILE

NH-44 BOTTLENECK • BANIHAL • LANDSLIDE RISK

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
2.84 lakh	54.27%	38.04%	902	1,329 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Roadside services, construction, agriculture, tourism and public employment operate within a narrow mountain corridor. Vulnerable slopes impose direct costs on markets, school attendance and emergency care.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

NH-44 and the Banihal railway corridor are major cross-regional links. Repeated landslides in 2026 illustrate why maintenance and drainage are part of service delivery rather than marginal engineering. At 38.04% in Census 2011, female literacy was the lowest among the nine districts in this series. Policy should distinguish girls enrolled from girls completing secondary school, and assess travel safety and teacher availability.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

A September 2025 PIB review reported relief works following damaging floods and claimed saturation under PM-JAY; these administrative claims require independent outcome checks. NH-44 closures were again reported in July 2026.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Flash floods, rockfall, unstable cut slopes, geographic isolation and the district's pronounced female-literacy gap.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Slope early-warning, resilient school access, maternal referral routes, flood-safe settlement planning and locally relevant skills.

MONITOR NEXT

NH-44 closure days and economic costs, girls' Grade 10/12 completion rates, village-level emergency travel time, functioning early-warning coverage.

DODA DISTRICT PROFILE

BHADERWAH • CHENAB BASIN • EDUCATION ACCESS

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
4.10 lakh	64.68%	49.69%	919	2,759 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Horticulture, agriculture, services and tourism are complemented by road-based trade. The district's prospects are constrained by steep topography and dispersed demand rather than a single dominant industrial anchor.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Road connectivity to Bhaderwah, Thathri and mountainous villages is pivotal. District management must assess landslide points and winter closures alongside more visible highway and bridge investments. The district portal records 409,936 people in 2011 and 64.68% literacy. Education priorities include post-primary continuity, women's training and locally accessible health services across remote valleys.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Doda administration continues to market Bhaderwah and Jai Valley as tourism assets; dated project references must not be relabelled as completed in 2026 without fresh verification.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Steep terrain, weak market scale, school-to-job mismatch, safety concerns on hill roads and gaps in remote medical access.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Small-scale tourism standards; practical vocational centres; slope and watershed resilience; girls' post-secondary transitions.

MONITOR NEXT

Tourist nights and local spend, health-worker vacancies by block, grade-wise school retention, horticulture value realised at farm gate.

KISHTWAR DISTRICT PROFILE

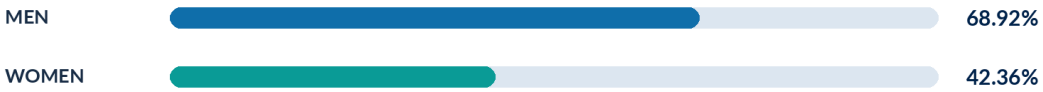
HYDROPOWER • SAPPHIRE–SAFFRON IDENTITY • REMOTE VALLEYS

2011 POPULATION	TOTAL LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	SEX RATIO	DISTRICT AREA
2.31 lakh	56.19%	42.36%	920	7,737 km²
Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	Census 2011 • historical baseline	females / 1,000 males	

ECONOMY, OPPORTUNITY & LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture, horticulture, services and construction coexist with major hydropower investment. Kishtwar's strategic question is how construction projects translate into lasting resident skills, local procurement and environmental safeguards.

2011 LITERACY GENDER COMPARISON



ACCESS, SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Kishtwar contains major hydropower sites including Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle; NHPC lists them as projects under construction in its 2024–25 reporting. Project commissioning, cost and displacement outcomes need separate current verification. Female literacy stood at 42.36% in 2011. The district's remote Marwah, Warwan, Dachhan and Paddar areas require reliable school routes, boarding options and year-round healthcare outreach.

RECENT EVIDENCE / DATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

A September 2025 official review addressed rehabilitation after cloudbursts and flash floods. NHPC's 2024–25 reporting lists four large Chenab hydropower schemes; none should be described as fully commissioned solely on that evidence.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

Floods, cloudbursts, remote settlements, difficult last-mile connectivity and unequal distribution of hydro-related economic benefits.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Local hydro-supply contracts and apprenticeships; independent disaster resilience; girls' education in remote areas; healthcare outreach.

MONITOR NEXT

Project-wise jobs held by district residents, family rehabilitation status, power-service availability in host villages, girls' secondary-school completion.

JAMMU • SAMBA • KATHUA

DEVELOPMENT COMPACT | THREE DISTRICTS, ONE EVIDENCE-LED STRATEGY

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

2026 REGION EDITION

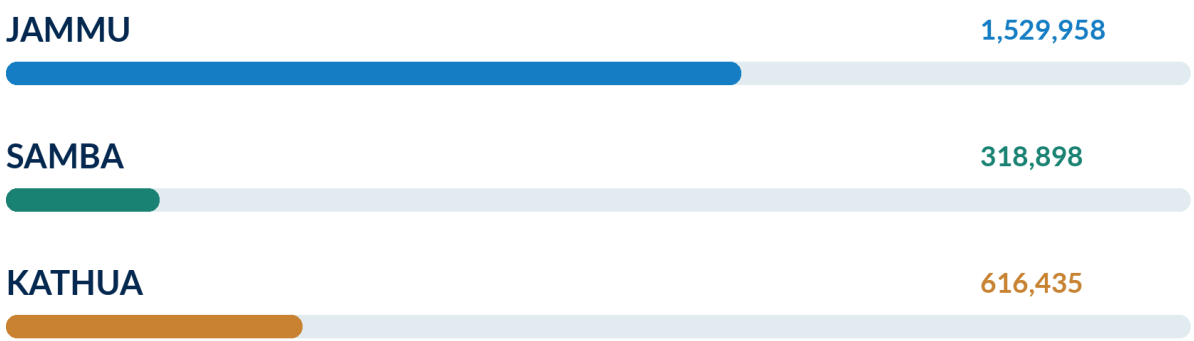
2.465 MILLION
Combined residents • Census 2011

83.45% → 73.09%
Literacy range • Census 2011

13.41 pp
Female literacy: Jammu–Kathua gap

01 THREE DISTRICTS • ONE CORRIDOR

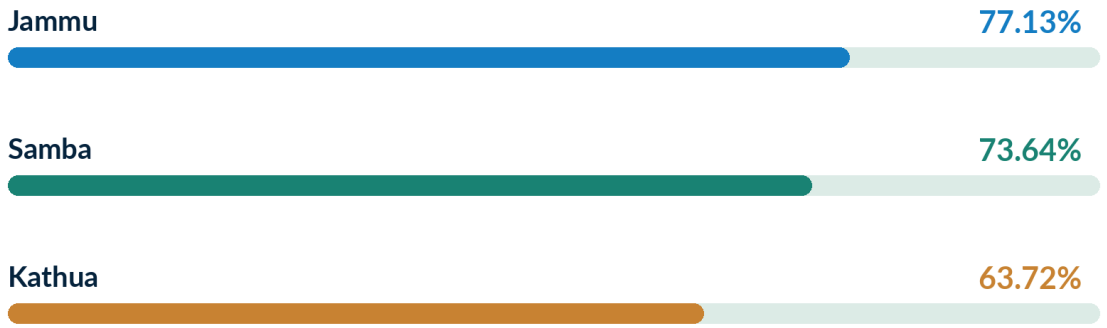
POPULATION SHARE • CENSUS 2011



Combined census population = 2,465,291

02 FEMALE LITERACY

2011 • COMPARABLE DES SERIES



Jammu–Kathua gap: 13.41 pp

03 DEVELOPMENT ROLES

JAMMU	Metropolitan services • education • regional health
SAMBA	Industry • manufacturing • AIIMS at Vijaypur
KATHUA	Agriculture • Kandi water • Basohli and uplands

04 JOINT REFORM AGENDA

- Measure jobs and wages, not registrations
- Audit water, hospitals and school access by block
- Protect ecology while upgrading industry
- Publish quarterly verified service scorecards

Source baseline: Census 2011 (J&K DES). Project status and official-portal discrepancies are labelled in accompanying report.

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JAMMU DISTRICT PROFILE

Economic, Social and Infrastructure Development | FRONTLINE 2026

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INTEGRATED SERVICES

2026 DISTRICT EDITION

1,529,958
Residents • Census 2011

83.45%
Overall literacy • Census 2011

77.13%
Female literacy • Census 2011

01 PLACE & ECONOMY

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTER

Urban and peri-urban conurbation; river Tawi, southern plains and hill margins

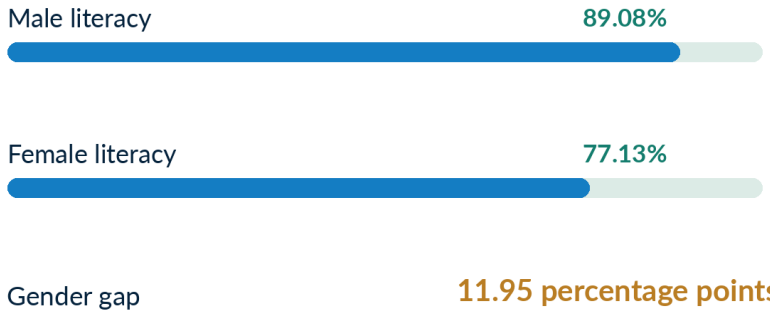
Economic base

Administration, trade, education, healthcare, hospitality, logistics, construction

Read the terrain, not just the highway.

02 SOCIAL BASELINE

POPULATION & EDUCATION



Gender gap **11.95 percentage points**

03 STRATEGIC IDENTITY

- TRADE & SERVICES
- HEALTH REFERRAL HUB
- URBAN RESILIENCE

Comparator: 2011, not 2026.

04 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

01 **Public transit + drainage**

02 **Quality jobs + apprenticeships**

03 **Accessible services across wards**

04 **Integrated health referrals**

05 PROJECTS & EVIDENCE STATUS

- AIIMS referral interface: regional benefit, Vijaypur is in Samba
- Urban drainage and public transit: outcome audit needed
- Health and education: cross-district catchment effects

Source baseline: Census 2011 (J&K DES). Project status and official-portal discrepancies are labelled in accompanying report.

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SAMBA DISTRICT PROFILE

Economic, Social and Infrastructure Development | FRONTLINE 2026

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INTEGRATED SERVICES

2026 DISTRICT EDITION

318,898
Residents • Census 2011

81.41%
Overall literacy • Census 2011

73.64%
Female literacy • Census 2011

01 PLACE & ECONOMY

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTER

Border plains and Kandi belt between Jammu and Kathua; Basantar catchment

Economic base

Industrial Growth Centre, manufacturing, crops, defence-associated livelihoods

Read the terrain, not just the highway.

02 SOCIAL BASELINE

POPULATION & EDUCATION

Male literacy 88.41%

Female literacy 73.64%

Gender gap 14.77 percentage points

03 STRATEGIC IDENTITY

- INDUSTRIAL GROWTH CENTRE
- AIIMS: VIJAYPUR
- BORDER + KANDI BELT

Comparator: 2011, not 2026.

04 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

01 Verify industrial employment

02 Independent pollution monitoring

03 AIIMS access & allied skills

04 Irrigation + flood resilience

05 PROJECTS & EVIDENCE STATUS

- AIIMS Jammu at Vijaypur: inaugurated 20 Feb 2024
- 736 industrial units: undated portal registration, not active jobs
- Ujh irrigation impact: proposed, not delivered

Source baseline: Census 2011 (J&K DES). Project status and official-portal discrepancies are labelled in accompanying report.

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KATHUA DISTRICT PROFILE

Economic, Social and Infrastructure Development | FRONTLINE 2026

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2026 DISTRICT EDITION

616,435
Residents • Census 2011

73.09%
Overall literacy • Census 2011

63.72%
Female literacy • Census 2011

01 PLACE & ECONOMY

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTER

Pakistan-facing borderlands; Ravi–Ujh river system; Kandi and Bani–Basohli uplands

Economic base

Agriculture, irrigated plains, industry, crafts, tourism and services

Read the terrain, not just the highway.

02 SOCIAL BASELINE

POPULATION & EDUCATION



Gender gap **17.81 percentage points**

03 STRATEGIC IDENTITY

85.5% RURAL IN 2011

KANDI WATER STRESS

BASOHLI ART + UJH

Comparator: 2011, not 2026.

04 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

01 **Female literacy & access**

02 **Kandi water reliability**

03 **Artisans + agro-processing**

04 **Bani–Basohli connectivity**

05 PROJECTS & EVIDENCE STATUS

- Ujh Multipurpose: 2026 phased review; benefits prospective
- Basohli ODOP: documented artisan support, outcomes unverified
- 2017–18 cultivated 61,535 ha; old inventory, not 2026 total

Source baseline: Census 2011 (J&K DES). Project status and official-portal discrepancies are labelled in accompanying report.

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KUPWARA DISTRICT PROFILE

ECONOMIC | SOCIAL | INFRASTRUCTURE

NORTH KASHMIR DEVELOPMENT SERIES / OCTOBER 2026

POPULATION · CENSUS 2011
870,354

FEMALE LITERACY · 2011
54.79%

RURAL SHARE · 2011
~88%

AREA · SOURCE CONVENTION
2,379 km²

WALNUT · LOLAB · BANGUS · LOC

Border resilience, horticulture and remote-area access

LOCAL ECONOMY

HORTICULTURE

Walnut and apple production anchor farm livelihoods.

CULTIVATION

68,500 hectares under agriculture and horticulture (source estimate).

TOURISM

Lolab, Bangus and Keran offer largely unrealised tourism potential.

PEOPLE & SERVICES

EDUCATION

Female literacy 54.79% in the supplied district study.

HEALTH

GMC Handwara opened in 2023; peripheral capacity remains uneven.

ACCESS

Machil, Keran and Karnah face prolonged winter isolation.

PRIORITY AGENDA

1. Winter-resilient roads and medical referrals
2. Horticulture grading, storage and value addition
3. Girls’ education and rural skill pathways
4. Evidence-led eco-tourism with local benefits

Maqbool Shah • Research and strategic assessment

Source: Kupwara District Profile (13 Oct 2026). Rural figure approximate; source population subtotals require reconciliation.

Source details and limitations are documented in the corresponding district report.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

BARAMULLA DISTRICT PROFILE

ECONOMIC | SOCIAL | INFRASTRUCTURE

NORTH KASHMIR DEVELOPMENT SERIES / OCTOBER 2026

POPULATION · CENSUS 2011
1,008,039

FEMALE LITERACY · 2011
52.38%

RURAL SHARE · 2011
81.9%

AREA · SOURCE CONVENTION
4,243 km²*

GULMARG · URI · SOPORE

Horticulture, tourism, trade corridors and frontier equity

LOCAL ECONOMY

ORCHARDS

Commercial apple and walnut economy; Sopore is a key market.

TOURISM

Gulmarg, Tangmarg and the Uri landscape support visitor activity.

CONNECTIVITY

Rail and road access connect major centres to Valley markets.

PEOPLE & SERVICES

EDUCATION

Female literacy: 52.38% (Census-based official digest).

HEALTH

Service gaps persist between principal towns and remote habitations.

MARKET ACCESS

Border villages face uneven all-weather access and logistics.

PRIORITY AGENDA

1. Measure service equity outside major towns
2. Farm-gate logistics and horticulture cold chains
3. Tourism jobs linked to local training
4. Monitor enterprise approvals against livelihoods

Maqbool Shah • Research and strategic assessment

Source: Baramulla District Profile (13 Oct 2026). *District-portal area; 2011 Census baseline.

Source details and limitations are documented in the corresponding district report.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

BANDIPORA DISTRICT PROFILE

ECONOMIC | SOCIAL | INFRASTRUCTURE

NORTH KASHMIR DEVELOPMENT SERIES / OCTOBER 2026

POPULATION · CENSUS 2011
392,232

FEMALE LITERACY · 2011
44.34%

RURAL SHARE · 2011
83.3%

AREA · SOURCE CONVENTION
2,475 km²*

WULAR · GUREZ · SONAWARI

Wetland livelihoods, ecological restoration and mountain access

LOCAL ECONOMY

WULAR LAKE

Fisheries, wetlands and ecological services shape local livelihoods.

AGRICULTURE

Rural horticulture and allied activities remain important.

TOURISM

Gurez and the lake landscape offer sensitive, seasonal potential.

PEOPLE & SERVICES

EDUCATION

Female literacy: 44.34% (Census-based official digest).

HEALTH

Dispersed settlements require dependable referral pathways.

ACCESS

Gurez remains vulnerable to seasonal disruption.

PRIORITY AGENDA

1. Wular restoration linked to local livelihoods
2. Girls’ secondary and post-secondary access
3. Year-round Gurez mobility and referrals
4. Sustainable, community-owned tourism

Maqbool Shah • Research and strategic assessment

Source: Bandipora District Profile (13 Oct 2026). *District-portal area; 2011 Census baseline.

Source details and limitations are documented in the corresponding district report.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

GANDERBAL DISTRICT PROFILE

ECONOMIC | SOCIAL | INFRASTRUCTURE

NORTH KASHMIR DEVELOPMENT SERIES / OCTOBER 2026

POPULATION · CENSUS 2011
297,446

FEMALE LITERACY · 2011
45.71%

RURAL SHARE · 2011
84.2%

AREA · SOURCE CONVENTION
1,045 km²*

SONAMARG · MANASBAL · SINDH

Mountain tourism, watershed stewardship and corridor growth

LOCAL ECONOMY

TOURISM

Sonamarg and Manasbal are key destination assets.

AGRICULTURE

Orchards and rural livelihoods coexist with peri-urban growth.

TRANSIT

The Sindh valley corridor supports regional movement.

PEOPLE & SERVICES

EDUCATION

Female literacy: 45.71% (Census-based official digest).

HEALTH

Access varies substantially between valley and upland areas.

ECOLOGY

High-altitude visitor pressure calls for conservation safeguards.

PRIORITY AGENDA

1. Visitor carrying-capacity and waste planning
2. Local employment from tourism and transport
3. Girls’ education and vocational transitions
4. Environmental monitoring in the Sindh basin

Maqbool Shah • Research and strategic assessment

Source: Ganderbal District Profile (13 Oct 2026). *Provisional district-portal area; 2011 Census baseline.

Source details and limitations are documented in the corresponding district report.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

CENTRAL KASHMIR • REGIONAL COMPARISON

Srinagar • Budgam • Ganderbal

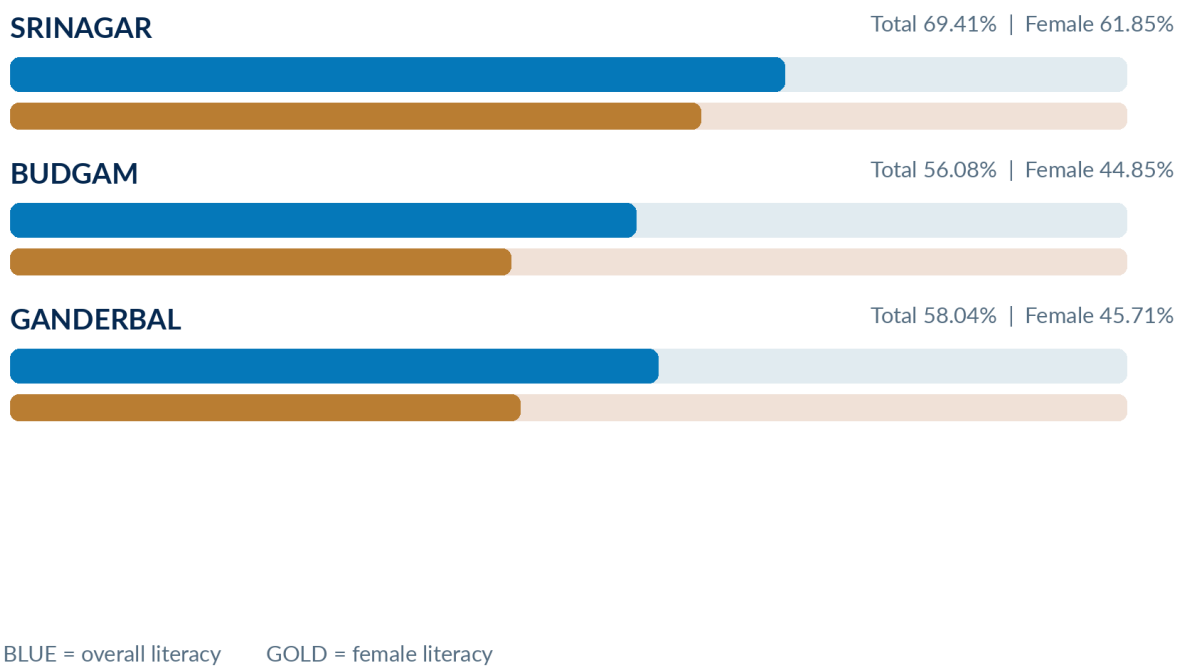
Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

2,288,020
REGIONAL POPULATION (2011)

3
DISTRICTS IN COMPARISON

FOCUS
GENDER LITERACY (2011)

01 2011 LITERACY COMPARISON



BLUE = overall literacy GOLD = female literacy

02 COMMON STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

- Unequal access to city-based hospitals and jobs
- Girls' education and women's economic participation
- Floodplain, wetland and upstream catchment stress
- Commuting, transport reliability and local income

03 JOINT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Reconcile district indicators; publish regional patient, commuter and pupil flows
- Audit flood/wetland assets; pilot girls' transport and female skill retention
- Launch artisan margin and tourism local-value dashboards
- Publish independently assessed outcomes, budgets and district-level distribution

ONE REGION • DISTINCT DISTRICTS • SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

Ganderbal was already published in the North Kashmir editorial group; it is counted ONCE in the J&K total. • FRONTLINE Integrated Services | Maqbool Shah

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

SRINAGAR DISTRICT PROFILE

Metropolitan heart, lakes, crafts and the urban services economy

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

1,236,829	69.41%	61.85%	14.40 pp
POPULATION (2011)	LITERACY (2011)	FEMALE LITERACY	LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

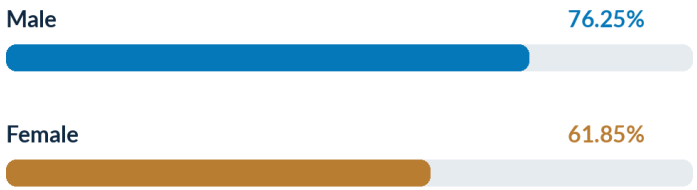
Urban Jhelum corridor; Dal Lake and associated wetlands

LIVELIHOODS

Government administration, healthcare, universities, trade, retail, transport, handicrafts, tourism and digital services anchor the economy. Carpets, papier-mâché, shawls and other craft clusters need traceable value chains, transparent artisan margins and overseas

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 14.40 percentage points. Sex ratio: 900 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

- 1. Independent flood-and-drainage asset audit and Jhelum/Dal Lake environmental monitoring.
- 2. Ward-level youth employment and female workforce survey.
- 3. Craft value-chain margins, e-commerce access and artisan social protection.
- 4. Cross-district transit, specialist-health referral and affordable housing framework.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 1,236,829 | Male: 651,124 | Female: 585,705 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Programme launches and approvals are not independently validated development outcomes.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

BUDGAM DISTRICT PROFILE

Rural craft landscapes, aviation gateway and peri-urban transformation

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

753,745	56.08%	44.85%	21.45 pp
POPULATION (2011)	LITERACY (2011)	FEMALE LITERACY	LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

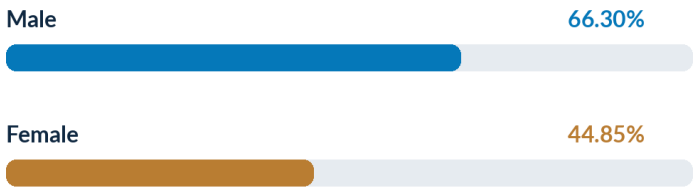
Central-west valley; Pir Panjal margins; Budgam, Beerwah and Chadoora

LIVELIHOODS

Horticulture, agriculture, livestock, weaving and embroidery, small commerce and Srinagar-linked commuting support livelihoods. Airport-related commerce and peri-urban expansion create opportunities but do not automatically translate into jobs for villages distant

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 21.45 percentage points. Sex ratio: 894 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

1. Launch targeted girls' secondary-completion and safe-transport campaign.
2. Integrate airport logistics and craft commerce with local apprenticeships.
3. Floodplain/Kandi water security and feeder-road maintenance audit.
4. Publish Mission YUVA enterprise operation and sustained-job outcomes.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 753,745 | Male: 398,041 | Female: 355,704 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Different official portals report incompatible literacy/area series. This plate uses one DES Census 2011 standard.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

SOUTH KASHMIR • REGIONAL COMPARISON

Anantnag • Kulgam • Pulwama • Shopian

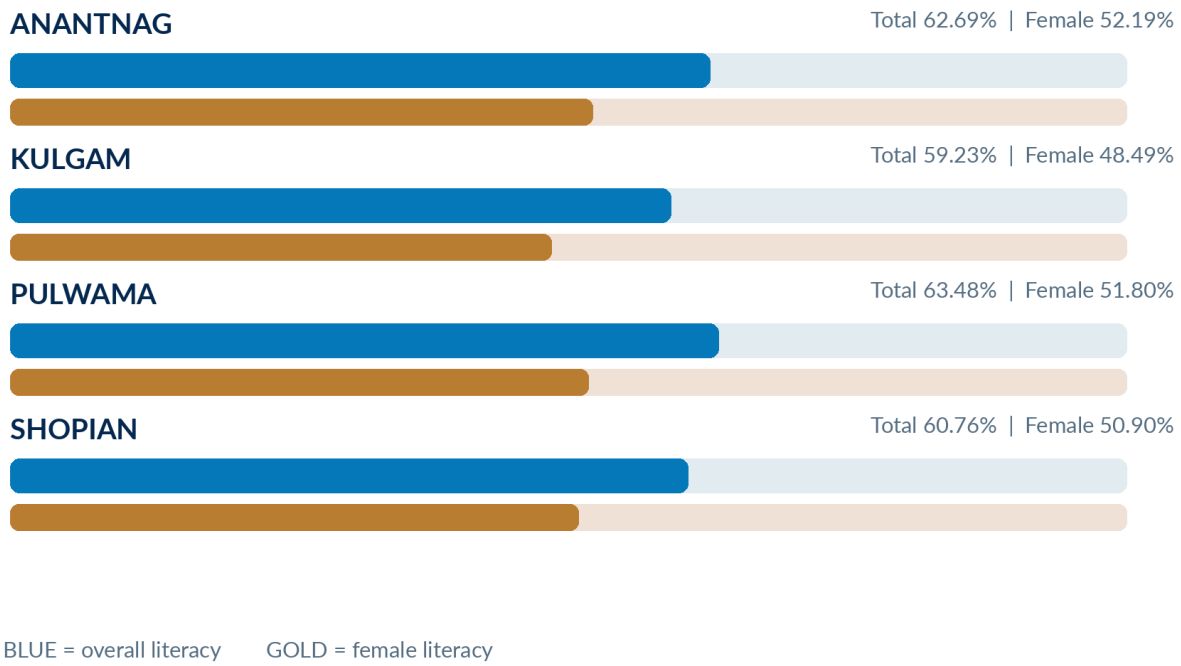
Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

2,329,830
REGIONAL POPULATION (2011)

4
DISTRICTS IN COMPARISON

FOCUS
GENDER LITERACY (2011)

01 2011 LITERACY COMPARISON



BLUE = overall literacy GOLD = female literacy

02 COMMON STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

- Low female literacy across all four districts
- Producer exposure to price and transport shocks
- Underdeveloped horticultural value addition
- Mountain roads, water security and ecological stress

03 JOINT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- Reconcile DES/district portal indicators; establish producer-income baseline
- Horticulture cold-chain audit; girls' secondary access and clinics map
- Launch orchard/farm price, water and road-reliability public dashboards
- Verify active enterprises, wages, retained tourism revenues and environmental compliance

ONE REGION • DISTINCT DISTRICTS • SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

Statistics are Census 2011; 2024–26 programme announcements are not independently verified outcomes. • FRONTLINE Integrated Services | Maqbool Shah

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

ANANTNAG DISTRICT PROFILE

Southern services anchor, Lidder tourism and diversified agriculture

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

1,078,692	62.69%	52.19%	20.47 pp
POPULATION (2011)	LITERACY (2011)	FEMALE LITERACY	LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

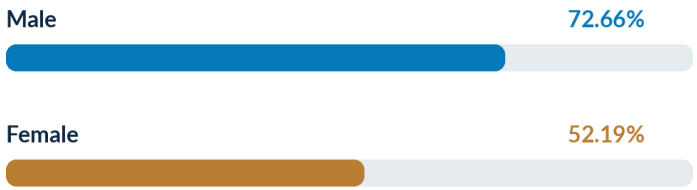
Lidder and Jhelum basin; Pahalgam, Kokernag, Bijbehara and Dooru

LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture, orchards, small trade, healthcare, education, crafts and tourism coexist. The opportunity is to connect farmers to grading, cold storage and fair markets while ensuring that hospitality supply chains buy locally. Mountain livelihoods require their own

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 20.47 percentage points. Sex ratio: 927 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

- 1. Regulate tourism carrying-capacity, local procurement and wastewater services.
- 2. Rural girls' education and transport continuity across upper-valley blocks.
- 3. Horticulture cold-chain and price transparency.
- 4. Publish Mission YUVA survival and jobs metrics, not only selections.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 1,078,692 | Male: 559,767 | Female: 518,925 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Different official portals report incompatible literacy/area series. This plate uses one DES Census 2011 standard.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

KULGAM DISTRICT PROFILE

Veshaw valley, apples, paddy and fragile highland access

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

424,483	59.23%	48.49%	21.10 pp
POPULATION (2011)	LITERACY (2011)	FEMALE LITERACY	LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

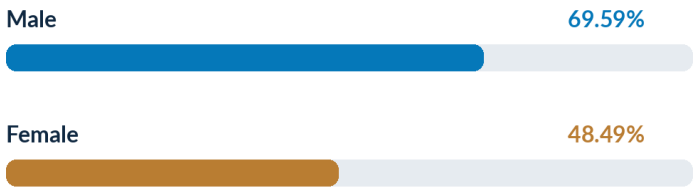
Veshaw river basin; Pir Panjal foothills and Aharbal

LIVELIHOODS

Apple cultivation, paddy, animal husbandry, local retail, small crafts and construction are central to household income. Better orchard grading, disease-management extension, packhouses and producer groups may improve the share of value retained locally.

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 21.10 percentage points. Sex ratio: 951 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

1. Correct conflicting district literacy figures before publication.
2. Female literacy, school retention and safe mobility.
3. Veshaw flood and irrigation service audit.
4. Apple grading/cold chain and village-based eco-tourism enterprise support.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 424,483 | Male: 217,620 | Female: 206,863 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Different official portals report incompatible literacy/area series. This plate uses one DES Census 2011 standard.

SOUTH KASHMIR | FRONTLINE INTEGRATED SERVICES

Research & Strategic Assessment: Maqbool Shah • Original publication series 2026 • Read the accompanying report for source links and qualifications.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

PULWAMA DISTRICT PROFILE

Saffron karewas, industry, orchards and vocational opportunity

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

560,440	63.48%	51.80%	22.56 pp
POPULATION (2011)	LITERACY (2011)	FEMALE LITERACY	LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

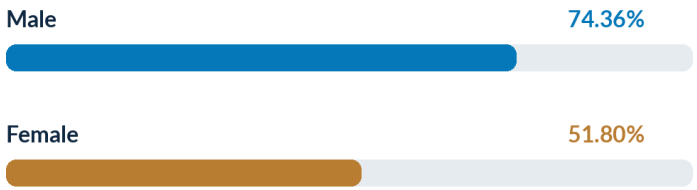
Pampore–Awantipora–Tral–Pulwama corridors

LIVELIHOODS

Saffron, apples, rice, small enterprise, logistics and the Lassipora industrial area shape employment. Saffron farmers need stable water, disease control, quality certification and protection from counterfeit or mislabelled produce. Industrial registrations matter

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 22.56 percentage points. Sex ratio: 912 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

1. Protect saffron karewas with water and soil monitoring.
2. Verify functioning Lassipora jobs, apprenticeships and pollution compliance.
3. Expand quality-certified saffron marketing and fruit-processing enterprises.
4. Publish gender-disaggregated education-to-employment outcomes.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 560,440 | Male: 293,064 | Female: 267,376 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Different official portals report incompatible literacy/area series. This plate uses one DES Census 2011 standard.

SOUTH KASHMIR | FRONTLINE INTEGRATED SERVICES

Research & Strategic Assessment: Maqbool Shah • Original publication series 2026 • Read the accompanying report for source links and qualifications.

FRONTLINE
INTEGRATED SERVICES

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ATLAS 2026

SHOPIAN DISTRICT PROFILE

Apple value chains, the Mughal Road and mountain villages

Census baseline: 2011 • Research edition: 14 October 2026

266,215
POPULATION (2011)

60.76%
LITERACY (2011)

50.90%
FEMALE LITERACY

19.37 pp
LITERACY GENDER GAP

01 GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMY

SETTING

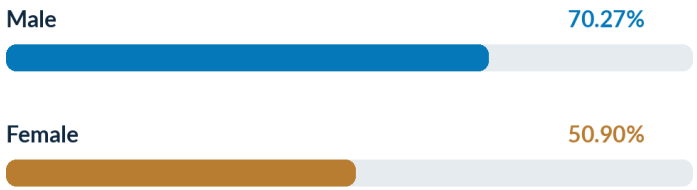
Pir Panjal foothills; Shopian, Keller, Hirpora

LIVELIHOODS

The district's apple value chain dominates much of its identity and livelihoods. Producers need fair packing standards, grading, storage, weather-risk coverage, market information and diversification into processing. The difference between output and net farm incom

02 EDUCATION & DEMOGRAPHY

MALE VS FEMALE LITERACY • 2011



Literacy gap: 19.37 percentage points. Sex ratio: 951 females per 1,000 males.

03 HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

- Access to functioning healthcare, trained staff, reliable referrals and affordable diagnostics.
- Track year-round road accessibility, safe water, sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- Capital projects must be operational and maintained, not simply sanctioned.

04 EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

THE EMPLOYMENT TEST

- Separate applicants, bank sanctions and disbursements from actual operating enterprises.
- Verify payroll jobs, skills-to-work transitions and 12-month enterprise survival.
- No unsupported 2026 district unemployment rate is asserted.

05 2026–2030 PRIORITIES

1. Create a verified apple producer-income and cold-storage map.
2. Mughal Road all-weather accessibility and safety review.
3. Girls' school retention and rural medical referral priorities.
4. Resolve conflicting area and literacy series on government portals.

06 EVIDENCE & CAUTIONS

HISTORICAL BASELINE, NOT A 2026 CENSUS

Population: 266,215 | Male: 136,480 | Female: 129,735 (2011 Census).

Sources: J&K Directorate of Economics & Statistics; Census of India; district administrative websites.

Different official portals report incompatible literacy/area series. This plate uses one DES Census 2011 standard.

SOUTH KASHMIR | FRONTLINE INTEGRATED SERVICES

Research & Strategic Assessment: Maqbool Shah • Original publication series 2026 • Read the accompanying report for source links and qualifications.