



## Demographic outline of people of Jammu and Kashmir

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### Abstract

Jammu and Kashmir is an Indian state with a unique cultural character. As it shares the international border with Pakistan and China, the State has a dominating position. The grandeur of snow-capped mountains, huge natural lakes, woods, rivers and springs enriches it. It consists of three major natural areas, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The state, however, is split into two major divisions for administrative purposes: Cashmir with eight districts, including two districts in Ladakh, and Jammu with six districts. The trend of Jammu and Kashmir development is not promising. It has lagged behind other countries in terms of net domestic product (NSDP) growth at current prices.

**Key words:** Jammu and Kashmir, development, Demographic etc

### Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian union area situated in the northern portion of the Indian Subcontinent, is centered in the plains in the south of Jammu and in the north in the Cashmir Valley. The Union territory is part of the greater Kashmir area, which since 1947 has been the subject of contention between India, Pakistan and China. In August 2019, legislation settled the stage to downgrade Kashmir and Jammu from the statehood to the status of union territory and divide a section of it into a new union territory, called as Ladakh region. The change took effect on 31 October of that year, although in the following years numerous court issues impacting the status of the court remained ongoing. Jammu and Cashmir, formerly one of India's biggest princely states, is bordered to the east by the Ladakh Indian Union, to the south by the Himachal Pradesh and Punjab Indians, to the south west by Pakistan, and to the north-west by the Kashmir part under Pakistani administration. The administrative capitals in summer are Srinagar and in winter Jammu. Area 16,309 miles square (101,387 square km). (2011) 12,367,013. Pop.

### People of Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir's cultural, ethnic and linguistic makeup vary throughout the area. Approximately two-thirds of the population is Islamic, a higher percentage than any other Indian state or union territory other than Lakshadweep; the majority of the remaining third are Hindus. There are also tiny Sikh and Buddhist communities. The official languages of the Union territory are Urdu, English, Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi.

### The Jammu region

Jammu, the capital city of the Maharaya winter, was once the seat of the Dogra dynasty and the region's second biggest metropolis. More than two-thirds of the population in the area is categorized as Hindu. Most Hindus from Jammu reside in the southeastern part of the area and are closely connected to the punjabi-speaking peoples in the Punjab state. The bulk of Sikhs



also reside in the Jammu area in the Union territory. In the northeast, however, the share of Muslims is rising, with Muslims in the western town of Punch dominating the region..

### **Kashmiris of the vale and highlands**

The Vale of Cashmir, surrounded by the mountains of the wider area of Cashmir, has long had a distinctive character. The overwhelming majority of those who speak Cashmir or Urdu are Muslims. Cultureally and ethnically, they have the closest ties to the inhabitants of the Pakistani-administered Kashmir territory in the north-western Gilgit region of Gilgit-Baltistan. The Kashmiri language is influenced by Sanskrit and is part of the Indo-Aryan Dardic branch, also spoken by the several hills of Gilgit. Kashmiri has rich traditions of folklore and literature. The vast bulk of the people live on the lower parts of the valley. Srinagar, the biggest town in Jammu and Kashmir, is on the Jhelum River.

### **Demographic trends**

The population of Jammu and Cashmir continues to rise very quickly from the end of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century. The area remained mostly rural, with about three-fourths of its population residing in towns and villages. In the Srinagar area, about two-fifths of the urban population lives. The sex ratio in the 2011 census is very low, with approximately 890 females per 1000 men (900 females per 1,000 males).

Jammu and Kashmir is one of the countries where the population situation as well as the degree of socio-economic development are far from acceptable. The last xxvi census in 2001 revealed that Jammu and Kashmir had 10,069,917 inhabitants, 0.98 percent of India. The population growth rate in the state was continuously strong and above 2% between 1981-2001. Its geographical area is 222,236 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 6.76% is of the size of the nation. Around 54% of the state's population is literate, compared to a national literacy rate of 65.38%. The population's age structure shows a high dependence rate in the 1971 and 1981 censuses. This is why the following action plan has to be implemented urgently:

A. Jammu and Kashmir State Population Committee shall create specific plans to implement the 2000 Recommendations on Sustainable Development for the National Population Policy (NPP).

b. Promote cooperation agreements between private health experts, NGOs and the public sector, to raise awareness of population stabilisation and support governments in implementing different family welfare schemes.

c. Local authorities should be encouraged to promote small family standards by reducing infant mortality and birth rates and promoting education

### **Livestock development**

Animal husbandry in Jammu and Cashmir has an important role, as 0.13 percent of the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from the industry. The state has a valuable cattle wealth in the form of livestock, sheep, goats, poultry, etc. The cattle and poultry of all animals are regarded to be the most significant instrument for rural economic development. The manufacturing of pashmina chinks and other animal products, such as tapestries, shawls and Kashmir cloths, earns the country good foreign currency. This is why the state livestock sector has ample potential for growth which makes rapid economic returns. There is a mismatch



between demand and supply in terms of cattle output. Due to the climatic conditions, beef and warm clothing are in high demand in the valley. The animal races in the valley cannot provide both components in adequate numbers. This industry offers direct employment to about two lakh individuals who are indirectly reliant on agriculture. This sector requires more attention and the following stimuli to generate sufficient growth in order to bridge the demand gap:

- a. State governments should commercialize the research output of their own efforts or private initiatives with respect to the conversion of agricultural waste into animal feed. This may lead to the adoption of unconventional feed and fodder.
- b. Jammu and Kashmir offer an appropriate livestock rearing environment. The state government should thus take the initiative to set up a cattle breeding facility.
- c. Increased demand for chicken products should be encouraged to produce poultry using new technologies

### **Women and child development and health**

The weakest part of the family and society in the state are women and children. Women are given poor status in all areas of life, including health, education, income and political involvement. The small enrollment ratio and high drop-out rates among females in school education indicate a poor use of girls' educational possibilities. xxxvi Due to their inadequate knowledge, skills and resources, women participate in informal and unorganized industries with extremely low pay. As a consequence, the income is extremely low, which degrades their quality of life and reduces their living standards. Women and girls tend to be ignored because of their low visibility and because their health problems tend to be limited to the domestic field. Several programs such as the IRDP, TRYSEM and DWCRA have been launched in the state to empower women and children. For example, Jammu and the Kashmir Women's Development Corporation also did praiseworthy work. The Corporation has educated a number of women in various conventional and non-traditional trades, in addition to providing various women with soft loans to start up their own income-cum-work units. Although some of these programs have been effective, their expected influence on women's overall status has not been reached.

### **Conclusion**

The rapid growth of Jammu and Kashmir as a state with distinctive characteristics and a key position demands an integrated strategy. The government's main goal should be to provide a safe environment through improving the condition of law and order in the state. State finances should also be given enough attention to guarantee improved fiscal management. A good strategy should be developed to harness the potential of the strong areas. Potential sectors including horticulture, handloom and craft, biotechnology, tourism and IT would have significant interconnections with the other sectors. Substantially, solid policies and excellent administration may help the state of Jammu and Kashmir progress quicker.

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