



DRAFT

**COMPENDIUM
OF DISTRICTS IN**

ARAVALLI LANDSCAPE

29 DISTRICTS IN 4 STATES







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ABOUT ARAVALLI MOUNTAIN RANGE

The Aravallis, is the oldest fold mountains on Earth. It spans over 800km from Gujarat to Delhi (through Rajasthan and Haryana). The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is Guru Peak on Mount Abu.

Impact on the climate

The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.

During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains.

In the winter months, it protects the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus & Gangetic) from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia.







ARAVALLI GREEN WALL PROJECT

What is Aravalli green wall project?

About the project

It is an ambitious plan to create a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt buffer around the Aravali Mountain range covering states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.

In the initial phase, 75 water bodies will be rejuvenated, starting with five waterbodies each in every district of Aravalli landscape.

It will cover degraded land in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh and in Rewari districts of Haryana.

The plan is inspired by Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project, running from Senegal (West) to Djibouti (East), which came into effect in 2007.

Background

According to Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), some 97.85 million hectares (29.7%) of India's total geographical area (TGA) of 328.72 mha underwent land degradation during 2018-19.

The Aravali has been identified as one of the key degraded zones to be taken up for greening under India's target to restore 26 million hectares (mha) of its land.

A 2016 report from the ISRO had also indicated that Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan had already degraded over 50% of their land.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the Aravali Green Wall Project on the occasion of International day of Forests and unveiled the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions.

Objectives

- The overarching objective of India's Green Wall will be to address the rising rates of land degradation and the eastward expansion of the Thar desert.
- The green belt being planned from Porbandar to Panipat will help in restoring degraded land through afforestation along the Aravali hill range. It will also act as a barrier for dust coming from the deserts in western India and Pakistan.
- It aims to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Aravalli range by planting native trees, which will help in carbon sequestration, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve water quality and quantity.
- The involvement of local communities in afforestation, agro-forestry, and water conservation activities can promote sustainable development.
- Further, it will help generate income and employment opportunities, improve food security, and provide social benefits.







RAJASTHAN

DISTRICT ALWAR RAJASTHAN





Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Alwar is situated at approximately 27.56°N latitude and 76.61°E longitude. It shares borders with Rewari district of Haryana to the north, Bharatpur district to the east, Dausa district to the south, and Jaipur district to the west.

Topography

Alwar features a mix of plains and hills, with the Aravalli Range traversing the region. The district's average elevation is around 271 meters above sea level.

Area

The district spans an area of 3159.46 square kilometres

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is

14.98%

of the total geographical area of the district.

The District Has

558.05 sq.km

Under the Reserved Forest,

1.41 sq.km

Under the Protected Forest &

9.79 sq.km

Under the deemed forest categories.

The District has one National park, the Sariska National Park which is also one of the Project Tiger habitats (1213.34 sq.km), 1 Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary (10444.01 ha), and 1 conservation reserve. 953.18 Ha of Jambughoda Sanctuary including the Halol & Ghoghamba Taluka has been declared as the **Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) Area.**

Wildlife

The Tiger, Blue bull, Fox, Jackal, Leopard, , Hare, Monkey, Wild cat are the dominant mammalian wildlife species, with Teak , Khair, Amaltas, Kadaya, Juliflora, Kanji, Mahuda, Shimlo, Arjuna Sadad, Timaru, Khakhro, etc. forming the dominant flora in the district.

Water Bodies

There are 4 natural water bodies namely Viswamitri, Mesri, Goma, Panam, and 5 manmade water bodies Dev, Hadaf, Kada, Karad, Panam

Sacred Groves

Alwar district in Rajasthan is home to approximately 84 sacred groves, locally known as Orans or Devbanis. These groves are traditionally protected forest areas revered for their ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance. They play a vital role in biodiversity conservation and are integral to the local communities' way

DEMOGRAPHICS ECONOMY

Population:

As per the 2011 Census,
Alwar district had a population of

3,674,179

comprising

1,939,026 males

1,735,153 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

895 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 17.81% of the
population resides in urban areas,
while 82.19% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

438 persons per sq.km.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

70.72%

with male literacy at 83.75% and
female literacy at 56.25%

Agriculture:

Agriculture is a significant part of
Alwar's economy. Major crops
include bajra, maize, jowar, pulses,
arhar, sesame, cotton, wheat, barley,
gram, mustard, and taramira.

Industry:

The district hosts several industrial
estates, such as those in Alwar,
Bhiwadi, Shahjahanpur, Neemrana,
and Behror. Prominent industries
include automotive (Honda, Ashok
Leyland), ceramics (Kajaria Ceramics),
and food processing (Pepsi).

Mineral Resources:

Alwar is rich in minerals like marble,
granite, feldspar, dolomite, quartz,
limestone, soapstone, barites, copper
clay, and pyrophyllite. Education



TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST



Historical Sites:

Bala Qila (Alwar Fort): Located in the Aravalli Hills, it's a significant historical fort.

Nikumbh Mahal: Situated behind **Bala Qila**. **Neelkanth Temple:** An ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, built between the 6th and 9th centuries.

Natural Attractions:

Sariska Tiger Reserve: A renowned wildlife sanctuary.

Arvari River: Flows through the district.

Ruparel River

Unique Sites:

Bhangarh Fort: Known as one of the most haunted places in India. The Archaeological Survey of India prohibits tourists from staying inside the fort area after sunset and before sunrise.

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA - 1475.81 Ha in last 10 years

State Plans - 18688 ha have been undertaken

Nagar Van Yojana - 165 ha since 2020

Under Externally Aided Project (AFD) - 2400 ha.

Green Credit Programme -75 ha.

NABARD - 6600 ha

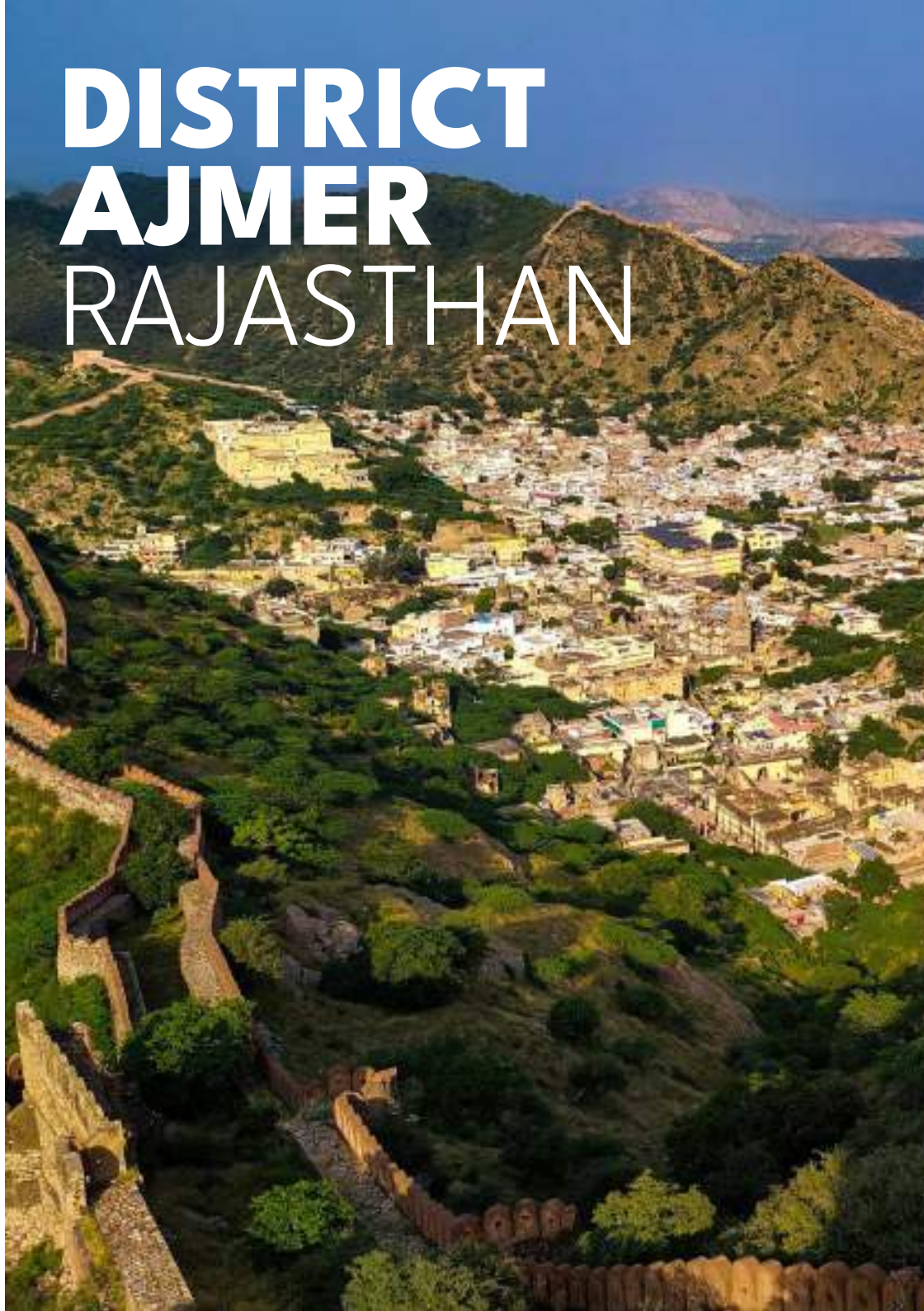
Man-Animal Conflicts with Leopard & crocodile

Invasive Species infestation- Prosopis & Lantana.

Forest Fire in summer season dry grass in forest area.



DISTRICT AJMER RAJASTHAN





Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Located between 25°38' to 26°58' N latitude and 73°54' to 75°22' E longitude, Ajmer is centrally positioned in Rajasthan and often referred to as the state's geographical heart.

The Nagpathar mountain range shields it from Thar Desert sandstorms, creating a geographical divide — with plains in the east and hilly terrain in the west, influenced by the Aravali range. The western valleys, part of the Thar Desert, contain both sandy and fertile lands suitable for cultivation. Strategically located on the Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Ajmer serves as a vital hub for commerce, transport, and administration, bordered by Nagaur, Jaipur, Tonk, Bhilwara, and Pali districts.

Area

The district spans an area of approximately 8,481 square kilometres

Topography

In the east, the district is plain land, while in the west the area is hilly since it is close to the Aravali ranges.

The western part of the district comprises of many valleys of sandy deserts, which are a part of the Thar desert. There are portions of land with fertile soil as well where cultivation is possible. Ajmer city, which is the district headquarters, is located in this hilly area of Ajmer district. The district's average elevation is about 486 meters (1,594 ft) above sea level.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is

7.23%

of the total geographical area of the district, with the majority of the forest area under open Forest area.

The District Has

194.99 sq.km

Under the Reserved Forest,

418.09 sq.km

Under the Protected Forest &

0.02 sq.km

Under the deemed forest categories.

The District has no designated National Park, 1 Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary (495 sq.km), and 2 conservation reserves namely Ganga Bherav Ghati Conservation reserve and Kharmor Conservation reserve. Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary has been declared as the Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) Area, spanning across Ajmer, Rajsamand, and Pali districts.

Wildlife

Wildlife is limited due to fragmented and degraded forests but may include Indian hare, Desert fox, Nilgai (blue bull), Various reptiles and small mammals and Bird species like peafowl, partridge, and myna. Major Tree Species include Acacia species (Babool, Kikar), Prosopis

Water Bodies

Ajmer is water-scarce and dependent on monsoon rains. The major water bodies in the district are the Ana Sagar Lake (artificial, built in the 12th century), Foy Sagar Lake (also known as Varun Sagar), and Pushkar Lake (characterised by the only Lord Brahma temple in the world). Other notable lakes of the district are Narayan Sagar, Ajaysar, Lasadiya, Vasundani, Fool Sagar, Shiv Sagar, Ramsar, Budha Pushkar, Gundolav Talab (Kishangarh), Ajgara and Lordi Sagar.

Sacred Groves

Ajmer district in Rajasthan is home to several sacred groves, locally known as Kenkri, which are integral to the region's cultural and ecological heritage. These groves are traditionally preserved by local communities and are often associated with religious or spiritual significance. The district in Rajasthan is home to 38 sacred groves.

Major Rivers:

River Banas passes through the south-eastern part of the district and there are four other small rivers as well which intersect the region.

They are namely Sagarmati, Saraswati, Dai and Khari. The famous Luni River originates from the Nagpathar mountain range and is utilised to fulfil the water requirements of the district.

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

951 females for every
1,000 males

Population Density:

The population density stands at

305 persons per sq.km.

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 40.08% of the population resides in urban areas, while 59.92% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Agriculture, tourism, handicrafts, & mining form the primary economic activities in the district.

Agriculture:

Agriculture is a significant part of Ajmer's economy. Major crops include Pearl millet, maize, sorghum, green gram, black gram, cluster bean, cotton (Kharif) & Wheat, barley, gram, mustard, chickpea as Rabi crops. Groundwater is the primary source of irrigation, mostly through dug wells and tube wells.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Ajmer had a population of

2,583,052

comprising

1,324,085 males

1,258, 967 females

Industry:

The major industries in the district are Marble processing, food processing, cement, textiles, leather products, handicrafts with about 14 large units & 22,562 MSMEs.

Mineral Resources:

Ajmer is rich in minerals like feldspar, quartz, asbestos, soapstone, magnesite, limestone & marble.

Literacy Rate:

The overall literacy rate is

69.33%

with male literacy at 82.44% & female literacy at 55.68%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Ajmer district, located in the heart of Rajasthan, is a vibrant blend of spiritual sanctity, historical grandeur, & scenic beauty. It encompasses the historic city of Ajmer, the pilgrimage town of Pushkar, & several lesser-known gems across the district. Below is a comprehensive overview of major tourism & places of interest in Ajmer district:



Spiritual & Religious Tourism

Ajmer Sharif Dargah (Ajmer City) :

Tomb of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, a revered Sufi saint, & a major pilgrimage site for Muslims & people of all faiths, Attracts millions of visitors during Urs Festival.

Pushkar (17 km from Ajmer City):

Sacred town known for Pushkar Lake (Considered as one of the holiest lakes in India) and Lord Brahma Temple, the only temple dedicated to Lord Brahma in the world, Hosts the famous Pushkar Camel Fair (October–November).

Soniji Ki Nasiyan (Ajmer): Also known as the Ajmer Jain Temple or "Golden Temple", and known for the Swarna Nagari, a hall with gold-plated wooden figures.

Nareli Jain Temple (Ajmer outskirts), a modern Jain temple with intricate marble architecture and peaceful ambiance.

Historical Monuments

Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra (Ajmer), an ancient Indo-Islamic mosque built from remains of Hindu & Jain temples. Built by Qutb-ud-Din Aibak in 1199 AD.

Akbari Fort and Museum (Ajmer), Built by Emperor Akbar in 1570, & now houses a government museum displaying Rajput and Mughal armor, artifacts, and sculptures.

Taragarh Fort (Ajmer), also called Star Fort, perched on a hill, offers panoramic views of Ajmer city & Ana Sagar Lake and is one of the oldest hill forts in India (11th century).

Other Attractions:

Clock Tower (Ajmer City): Colonial-era structure commemorating Queen Victoria's jubilee.

Prithviraj Smarak (Ajmer): Memorial of King Prithviraj Chauhan with a statue overlooking Ana Sagar Lake.

Aravalli Hills and Rural Eco-Tourism: especially in areas like Kishangarh & Nasirabad.

Ongoing Interventions:

● CAMPA – 28,502.64 Ha (2009-22) on both NFL and DFL Lands

● State Plans - NA

● Nagar Van Yojana – 25 ha since 2020

● Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

● One of the primary issues is illegal mining, specifically mining of marble and limestone in particular

● Land degradation, dust pollution, and the drying up of natural aquifers.

● Deforestation and encroachment on Aravalli foothills have reduced forest cover and weakened the region's ability to act as a natural barrier against desertification.

● The loss of vegetation in the Aravallis is also contributing to increased surface runoff, soil erosion, and reduced ground water recharge.

DISTRICT BANSWARA RAJASTHAN





Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Located at 23°55' N, 74°45' E and at an elevation of 302 m above sea level, Banswara lies in the southern part of Rajasthan, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It shares boundaries with Dhariawad (Udaipur) and Mahendragarh in the north, Jhabua (MP) in the south, Ratlam (MP) in the east, and Sagwara & Aspur (Dungarpur) in the west. To the southwest, it touches Panchmahal district (Gujarat).

Area:

The district spans an area of approximately 5,037 square kilometres

Topography:

Situated at the southern end of the Aravalli range and merging into the northern edge of the Deccan plateau, Banswara features undulating hills, plateaus, and fertile plains.

The terrain, part of the Vindhyan and Aravalli ranges, is predominantly hilly in the central and eastern regions, with elevations ranging from 200 to 600 meters. These hills are often covered with dry deciduous forests, especially in tribal and protected areas.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per the latest data from the Rajasthan Forest Department, Banswara district has a total forest area of approximately

1,007.00 sq.km

which constitutes about

22.27%

of its geographical area.

The District has no area under the Reserved Forest

1006.33 sq.km

Under the Protected Forest &

0.66 sq.km

under the unclassified forest categories.

Banswara district in Rajasthan does not have any designated National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, or Community Reserves. While the district boasts significant forest cover—approximately 1,007 square kilometers, accounting for about 22.27% of its geographical area—

the absence of formally recognized protected areas means that conservation efforts are primarily managed through general forest administration and community-based initiatives.

Banswara district in Rajasthan does not have any officially notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs).

Wildlife

Banswara's diverse landscapes support a wide range of wildlife, including Leopards, Chinkaras, Four-horned Antelopes, Nilgai (Ronj), Wild Boars, Monkeys, Lizards, Snakes, and birds like the Peacock, Partridge, Fowl, and Black Drongo. The Mahi River and its tributaries, along with surrounding forests, form crucial habitats for these species.

The district's forests are predominantly Tropical Dry Deciduous, with Teak (*Tectona grandis*) as the dominant species. Other key trees include *Adina cordifolia*, *Acacia* spp., *Prosopis* spp., *Aegle marmelos*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Dalbergia longifolia*, *Lannea coromandelica*, and *Phyllanthus emblica*.

Water Bodies

Banswara, known as the "City of Hundred Islands," features a landscape shaped by rivers and lakes. The Mahi River, originating in Madhya Pradesh, flows through the district, forming islands that give Banswara its nickname. The Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam (1972–1983) supports hydroelectric power and water supply. Major tributaries include the Som, Jakham, Anas, Chanp, Erav, Hiran, and Kagdi rivers.

Prominent Lakes & Water Bodies

Banswara, often called the "City of Hundred Islands," is defined by its rich network of rivers and lakes. The Mahi River, originating in Madhya Pradesh, flows through the district, forming numerous islands that give Banswara its nickname. It is dammed at the Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam (1972–1983) for hydroelectric power & water supply. Major tributaries include the Som, Jakham, Anas, Chanp, Erav, Hiran, & Kagdi rivers.

Prominent water bodies include Anand Sagar Lake (Bai Talab), an artificial lake lined with Kalpavriksha trees; Dailab Lake, known for its lotus blooms and tranquil setting; and Kagdi Lake, part of the Mahi project, featuring

fountains, gardens, and scenic beauty. The Chacha Kota Backwaters, about 14 km from the city, are dotted with forested islands and seasonal waterfalls. Other notable sites include Ram Kund (Phati Khan) & Beneshwar Dham, both culturally & ecologically significant.

Sacred Groves

Banswara district in Rajasthan is home to several sacred groves, locally known as Orans, which hold profound ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance. Notable Sacred Sites include Kalpavriksha Trees near Bai Talab Lake: These ancient trees, known as the "Raja" and "Rani," are revered for their supposed wish-fulfilling powers. They are surrounded by temples and are integral to local religious practices, and Mangarh Dham: A significant site for the Bhil community, this area is not only a place of worship but also a symbol of tribal resistance and sacrifice. It is associated with Govind Guru, a spiritual leader who played a pivotal role in awakening the Bhil community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Ajmer had a population of

1,797,485,

comprising

907,754 males

889,731 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

980 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 92.9% of the population resided in rural areas, with the remaining 7.1% in urban centers.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

397 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority of the population practiced Hinduism (94.65%), followed by Muslims (2.72%), Jains (1.26%), & Christians (1.24%).

ECONOMY

Banswara district in southern Rajasthan is predominantly agrarian, with agriculture serving as the primary livelihood for its largely tribal population. The district's economy is characterized by small and marginal farming, mineral resources, and emerging industrial projects.

Agriculture:

Agriculture is the backbone of Banswara's economy. The district's agro-climatic conditions support the cultivation of various crops, namely Maize, rice, black gram, soybean, & cotton as Kharif Crops and Wheat, gram, and rabi maize as Rabi Crops

Industry:

The major industries in the district are Textile and mineral based industries including limestone, marble, dolomite, & other valuable minerals.

Mineral Resources:

Banswara is rich in mineral resources, including rock phosphate, limestone, marble, dolomite, soapstone, graphite, manganese, iron, lead-zinc, and copper ores.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

56.33%

with male literacy at 69.48% & female literacy at 43.06%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST



Banswara, often called the "City of Hundred Islands," is known for its scenic beauty, tribal culture, and rich heritage. Nestled in the southern part of Rajasthan, it is surrounded by dense forests, rivers, and hills, making it a serene and captivating destination for nature lovers and cultural tourists alike.

Notable attractions include:

Garba Chowk (Banswara City) : A popular cultural and social hub in Banswara city, and Known for vibrant Garba dance performances during Navratri and festive seasons. Represents the rich tribal culture of the district.

Mahi Dam and Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam: Located on the Mahi River, these dams are engineering marvels and major water reservoirs. The dam area offers picturesque views and is a peaceful spot for visitors. Ideal for picnics, bird watching, and photography.

Jain Temple, Banswara: An ancient temple known for its intricate architecture and spiritual significance. A prominent pilgrimage site for Jain devotees in the region.

Rani Talab: A beautiful lake located in the heart of Banswara city. Surrounded by gardens and walking paths, it's a favorite spot for locals and tourists for relaxation.

Banswara Fort: Historical fort that showcases the architectural style of the region. Though partly in ruins, it offers insights into the district's past rulers and strategic importance.

Dhulev Mata Temple: A sacred temple dedicated to Goddess Dhulev Mata. Attracts many devotees, especially during festivals.

Jagmalpura: A village known for traditional tribal art and crafts. Visitors can experience the vibrant lifestyle and handicrafts of the Bhil tribe.

Kherwada: A scenic village famous for its natural beauty and tribal culture. Offers trekking opportunities in the surrounding hills.

Talwada Island: One of the many islands on the Mahi River, known for its natural environment. A spot for nature walks and enjoying the tranquility of the river.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – 1500-2000 ha
- State Plans - As per recent state reports, plantation under various schemes in Banswara is estimated at around 2,000 to 3,500 hectares cumulatively over the last few years.
- Nagar Van Yojana – None Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

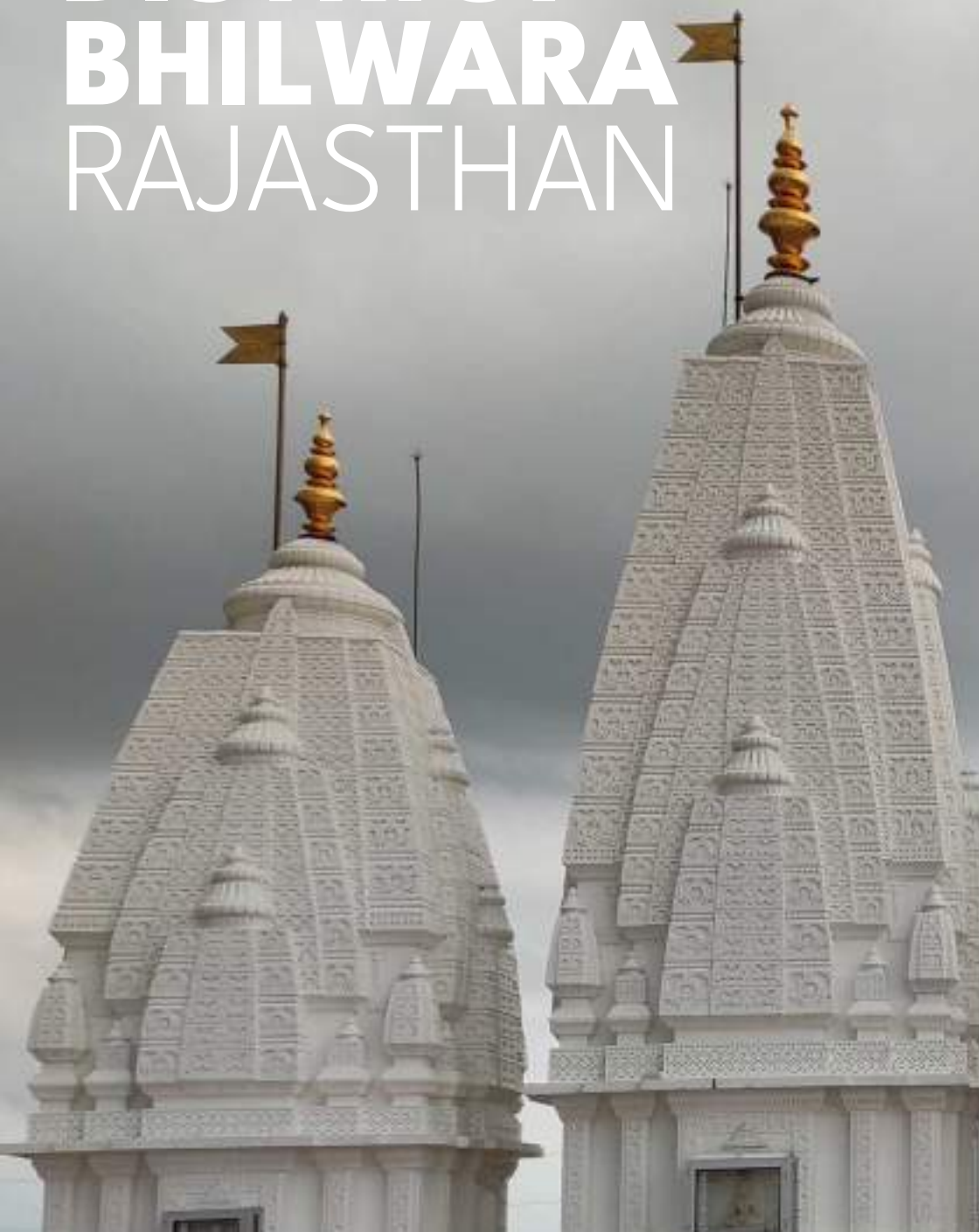
Challenges faced in the region:


- Tribal welfare and inclusion
- Education and health infrastructure gaps
- Limited industrialization
- Conservation of natural resources & forests
- Rural connectivity and migration





DISTRICT BHILWARA RAJASTHAN





Bhilwara, often referred to as the “Textile City of India”, is a prominent district located in the southeastern part of Rajasthan. It is well-known for its thriving textile industry, historical significance, and mineral wealth.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Bhilwara is situated at 24°00’ to 25°00’ North latitude and 74°00’ to 75°30’ East longitude, and located in the south eastern part of Rajasthan forming a part of Mewar region. It is situated surrounded by the districts of Ajmer and Tonk (north), Chhitorgarh (south), Bundi (east), and Rajasmand and Udaipur (west)

Area:

The district spans an area of approximately 10508.85 square kilometres.

Topography:

The Bhilwara district is predominantly semi-arid terrain with rolling plains and scattered hills. Part of the Aravalli hill range runs through parts of the district. The district’s average elevation is about 421 meters (1,594 ft) above sea level.



FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is

1200 sq.km

forming about

22.27%

of the total geographical area of the district, with the majority of the forest area under open Forest area (700 sq.kms) followed by Moderately Dense and very dense forests

As per the 2021 data of the Rajasthan Forest Department, the District had

437.80 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

289.62 sq. km

under the Protected Forest &

66.77 sq.km

under the unclassified forest categories.

Though Bhilwara district has no designated National Park or officially declared Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ), it forms part

of the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve, which spans Bundi, Bhilwara, and Kota districts. This reserve acts as a vital corridor connecting Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in the south, supporting tiger movement and genetic exchange. The district also houses three Conservation Reserves: Aasop, Beed Ghaas Phuliakhurd, and Hamirgarh.

Wildlife

The district's forests are characterized by dry deciduous vegetation, including species like Dhok (*Anogeissus pendula*), Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*), Babool (*Acacia nilotica*), and Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*). Common wildlife includes leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, jackals, chinkaras, and a variety of bird species, especially in the conservation reserves.

Water Bodies

Bhilwara district in Rajasthan, India, features a network of rivers and man-made water bodies that play a crucial role in its agriculture, ecology,

and water supply. Major water bodies include Meja Dam, Khari Dam & Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the Menali, Bedach, and Banas rivers.

Major Rivers:

The major rivers in the district are Banas, Bedach, Kothari, Khari, Mansi, Menali, Chandrabhaga, Mej & Nagdi.

Sacred Groves:

Orans are community-conserved forest areas traditionally protected due to their religious & cultural importance. They often house shrines, temples, or memorials dedicated to local deities and serve as vital reservoirs of biodiversity. These groves are traditionally preserved by local communities and are often associated with religious or spiritual significance. The district in Rajasthan is home to 9 sacred groves, prominent being Ramdwara, Joganiya Mata Temple & Sheetla Mata temple in Dhanop.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Bhilwara had a population of

2,408,523

comprising

1,220,736 males

1,187,787 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

973 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 21.28% of the population resides in urban areas, while 78.72% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at
230 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMICS

Bhilwara district in Rajasthan boasts a diverse economy, primarily driven by its robust textile industry, agriculture, & mineral resources.

Agriculture:

The district cultivates a variety of crops, including wheat, barley, maize, pulses, oilseeds, and cotton. While Bhilwara district lacks natural lakes, it compensates with numerous ponds and dams, making it

one of the most irrigated districts in Rajasthan.

Industry:

Bhilwara is renowned as the "Textile City of India" due to its significant contribution to the textile sector, with about 850 textile manufacturing units in the district. Other major industries in the district include Ceramic, Leather goods and Agricultural tools.

Mineral Resources:

he district has large-scale mining of sandstone, soapstone, feldspar, quartz, China clay, mica, and iron ore.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

61.37%

with male literacy at 75.27% & female literacy at 47.21%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Bhilwara district in Rajasthan offers a rich tapestry of historical landmarks, spiritual sites, natural wonders, & cultural experiences. Here's a curated guide to some of the most notable places to visit:

Historical Forts & Monuments

Mandalgarh Fort: Believed to be built by Rana Kumbha, this fort is the third in the Mewar region after Chittorgarh and Kumbhalgarh.

Badnore Fort: Located on the Bhilwara-Asind road, this seven-storeyed fort offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Pur Udan Chatri: An umbrella-shaped monument situated about 10 km from Bhilwara city, offering breathtaking views and showcasing unique architecture.

Religious & Spiritual Sites

Kyara Ke Balaji: A revered temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman, known for the natural image of the deity that appeared on a rock.

Harni Mahadev Temple: Situated 6 km from Bhilwara, this temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is located on a hill, offering panoramic views of the city. A fair is held here during Shivratri.

Bagore Sahib: A significant Sikh shrine located beside the River Kothari, where Guru Gobind Singh Ji is believed to have stayed during his journey to Punjab.

Natural Attractions & Wildlife

Meja Dam: Located 20 km from Bhilwara, it's one of the largest dams in the district, featuring a lush green park and serving as a popular picnic spot.

Menal Waterfall: A 150-meter-high waterfall surrounded by dense forests and ancient temples, often referred to as "Mini Khajuraho" due to its intricate carvings. Best visited during the monsoon season.

Hamirgarh Eco-Park: Situated about 18 km from Bhilwara, this park is known for its sunset views and wildlife, including blue bulls, jackals, & foxes. The Mansha Mahadev temple is also located here.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – 3561.59 ha
- State Plans – 4643 ha
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – RBFDP under collaboration with AFD.

Challenges:

Water stress: Common due to irregular rainfall and high evapotranspiration.

Dust storms and droughts: Frequent in summer months.

Agricultural dependence: Mainly on monsoon rains; crop failure can occur due to dry spells.



DISTRICT BHARATPUR RAJASTHAN





Bharatpur is located in the Braj region, 180 km away from Delhi. Bharatpur is referred to as eastern gate of Rajasthan.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Located in eastern Rajasthan, Bharatpur lies in the Indo-Gangetic plains, forming a transitional zone between the Aravalli hills to the west and the Gangetic plains to the east.

The district spans 26°22' to 27°83' N and 76°53' to 78°17' E, with an average elevation of 183 meters above sea level. It borders Gurgaon (Haryana) to the north, Mathura to the east, Agra (U.P.) and Dholpur (Rajasthan) to the south, and Dausa and Alwar to the west.

Area:

The district spans an area of approximately 5066 square kilometres.

Topography:

Bharatpur's topography is characterized by a low-lying alluvial plain with gentle undulations and occasional rocky hills on the western edge. The land generally slopes from west to east, facilitating natural drainage. The district's average elevation is about 170 – 350 m above sea level.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Bharatpur district in Rajasthan has a total forest area of

442.80 sq.km

forming about

8.74%

of its geographical area of

5,066 sq.km

The majority of Bharatpur's forest area falls under the protected forest category, reflecting the district's emphasis on conservation, particularly in ecologically sensitive zones like the Keoladeo National Park.

Bharatpur District had

28.73 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

430.02 sq. km

under the Protected Forest &

12.77 sq.kms

under the unclassified forest categories.

Bharatpur is home to the renowned Keoladeo National Park, also known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary.

This **UNESCO World Heritage Site** spans approximately **28.73 sq km** and is a significant wetland habitat for a diverse range of bird species, including migratory birds.

The district also has **Bandh Baretha Wildlife Sanctuary** in the Bayana tehsil, approximately 50 km south of Bharatpur city with a total area of **372.53 sq km** (Bharatpur District- 174.68 sq km and Karoli District- 197.85 sq km).

It provides habitat for various wildlife species and serves as a crucial water reservoir for the region.

Bharatpur district in Rajasthan does not have any officially designated Conservation Reserves. T

Two prominent protected areas have designated **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**: Keoladeo National Park and Bandh Baretha Wildlife Sanctuary.

Wildlife

Bharatpur, in eastern Rajasthan, is ecologically significant for its diverse habitats—wetlands, scrublands, woodlands, and rocky outcrops—that support rich biodiversity. The district's crown jewel is Keoladeo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage and Ramsar Site, renowned as a vital wintering ground for migratory birds and a biodiversity hotspot.

Common tree species include Babul, Neem, Ber, Khejri, Jamun, Kadamba, and Peepal. Prominent mammals are Nilgai, Sambar, Chital, Golden Jackal, Indian Grey Mongoose, Jungle Cat, Indian Hare, and Small Indian Civet, along with over 370 bird species.

Water Bodies

Bharatpur district features a mix of seasonal rivers, man-made lakes, ponds, and wetlands that play a vital role in agriculture, biodiversity, and local livelihoods. The district's water resources are especially important given its semi-arid climate. Major water bodies include Keoladeo Wetlands and Baretha Dam.

Major rivers

The main rivers of the district are Rooparel, Gambhir and Ban Ganga which pass through the district.

Sacred Groves

No official record of Sacred groves exists for Bharatpur district

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Bhilwara had a population of

2,548,462

comprising

1,355,726 males

1,192,736 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

888 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 19.43% of the population resides in urban areas, while 80.57% live in rural regions

Population Density:

The population density stands at

503 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the primary occupation and backbone of Bharatpur's economy. Both irrigated and rainfed farming are practiced. The majority of the population depends on agriculture and allied activities.

Major crops include Wheat, Bajra (Pearl Millet), Barley, Maize, and Rice (in irrigated areas), Pulses: Gram, Moong, Urad, Oilseeds: Mustard and Groundnut, Cash Crops: Sugarcane and Cotton and Horticulture: Citrus fruits (especially kinnow), guava, and vegetables in limited pockets.

Bharatpur's industrial sector is less developed compared to agriculture but growing steadily. The district has mainly small-scale and cottage industries with some medium-sized industrial units. Industries are concentrated around Bharatpur city and nearby towns.

Key Industries include Handicrafts including Brassware, pottery, and traditional crafts, Textiles, Food Processing, Stone Cutting and Masonry and Agro-based Industries including flour mills, sugar mills (few units)

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

70.11%

with male literacy at 84.10% & female literacy at 54.24%.



TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Bharatpur is a culturally rich and ecologically significant district, attracting tourists for its heritage sites, wildlife sanctuaries, and historic monuments. The prominent being

Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Wetland and is one of the world's most important bird breeding and migratory sites. Home to over 370 species of birds including migratory Siberian cranes (historically), painted storks, and herons.

Bharatpur Fort (Lohagarh Fort), Historic fort built in the 18th century by Maharaja Suraj Mal, and known for its strong fortifications—"Lohagarh" means Iron Fort.

Deeg Palace and Gardens, located about 32 km from Bharatpur city, it is the former summer resort of the rulers of Bharatpur, and is known for its stunning Mughal-style gardens with fountains, palaces, and ponds. It hosts the Deeg Festival showcasing Rajasthani culture.

Bandh Baretha Wildlife Sanctuary, located near Baretha dam, about 50 km from Bharatpur city, and supports local wildlife including deer, nilgai, and various bird species.

Local Markets and Handicrafts, Bharatpur is known for its Braj handicrafts, including brassware and pottery, with local markets offer traditional jewelry, textiles, and souvenirs. Visitors often explore bazaars for authentic Rajasthani crafts.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – In Year 2024-25, Total Plantation- 350 ha.
- State Plans – In Year 2024-25, Total Plantation- 100 ha.
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – RFBDP Scheme- In Year 2024-25, Total Plantation- 50 ha.

Challenges:

Water Scarcity: Over-extraction of groundwater and erratic rainfall.

Human-Wildlife Conflict: Especially near the Wild life bird sanctuary.

Agrarian Stress: Fragmented landholdings & variable agricultural productivity.

Need for Infrastructure: Urban-rural divide in healthcare, education, & road connectivity.

DISTRICT CHITTORGARH RAJASTHAN





Chittorgarh, located in the southeastern part of Rajasthan, is one of the state's most historically and culturally rich districts. It was once the capital of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar and is renowned for its majestic fort, valiant history, and Rajput heritage.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Located in the South-eastern Rajasthan. The district is situated Between 23°32 N and 25°13 N latitude and 74°12 E and 75°49 E longitude. The district borders Udaipur, Bhilwara, Kota, Pratapgarh, Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh).

Area:

The district spans an area of approximately 7841 square kilometres

Topography:

The district forms a part of the Aravalli hill system and the Malwa Plateau transition zone. Its landscape is shaped by a combination of ancient geological formations, rolling hills, plateaus, and river valleys. and its average height above sea level is 300-600 m above sea level

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan has a total forest area of

988.08 sq.km

forming about

12.63%

of its geographical area of. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category and is predominantly dry tropical forests, featuring species like salar, teak, bamboo, and khair.

Chittorgarh district ranks among the top five districts in Rajasthan in terms of forest cover, alongside Udaipur, Alwar, Pratapgarh, and Baran.

Some part of the Mukundra Hills National Park extends into the Chhittorgarh district, but has 4 Wildlife Sanctuaries namely Bhainsrorgarh, Sitamata, Bassi, and Jawahar Sagar.

Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan does not have any officially designated Conservation Reserves. Four prominent protected areas have

Four prominent protected areas have designated Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs): Bhainsrorgarh, Sitamata, Bassi and Mukundra Hills Tiger reserve

Wildlife

Located in eastern Rajasthan, Chittorgarh features a diverse landscape of wetlands, scrublands, woodlands, and rocky outcrops, supporting rich flora and fauna. Prominent tree species include *Anogeissus pendula*, *Acacia catechu* (Khair), *Diospyros melanoxylon* (Tendu), *Butea monosperma*, *Holoptelea integrifolia*, *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Hardwickia binata*, *Mangifera indica* (Mango), and *Terminalia arjuna*.

Major mammals include Nilgai, Sambar, Chital, Golden Jackal, Indian Grey Mongoose, Jungle Cat, Indian Hare, and Small Indian Civet, alongside about 370 bird species, reflecting the region's ecological richness.

Water Bodies

The district contains numerous natural and man-made lakes (locally called “talabs” or “johads”), which serve as water reservoirs for agriculture and groundwater recharge. Important water bodies include Rajsamand Lake (nearby but influences water availability), and several smaller ponds and tanks in villages and urban areas.

Major rivers

The main rivers of the district are Banas, Chambal, Kali Sindh and Berach rivers which pass through the district.

Sacred Groves

Sacred groves exists in Chittorgarh district includes Avari Mata temple ,Jogniya mata.

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

970 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 18.47% of the population resides in urban areas, while 81.53% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

197 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority of the population practiced Hinduism (94.65%), followed by Muslims (2.72%), Jains (1.26%), & Christians (1.24%).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Chittorgarh had a population of

1,544,338

comprising

783,171 males

761,167 females

ECONOMY

Chittorgarh district, located in southeastern Rajasthan, boasts a diverse economy rooted in agriculture, bolstered by significant industrial sectors such as cement, mining, and metallurgy. Agriculture is the primary livelihood for the majority of Chittorgarh's population. Major crops include maize, soyabean, wheat, Groundnut, mustard, cotton and Sugarcane.

Additionally, the district cultivates pulses like black gram, green gram, and cluster bean. Fruits and vegetables are grown on a smaller scale, covering 1,350 ha and 621 ha respectively. Medicinal crops such as safed musli, ashwagandha, and fenugreek are also being promoted. Farming Systems include Crop Production, Crop + Orchard + Vegetable Cultivation and Crop Production + Animal Husbandry.

Chittorgarh is a significant industrial hub in Rajasthan, with key industries including Cement, Metallurgy, Marble and Stone industry, fertilizer manufacturing and Textiles.

Literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

61.71%

with male literacy at 76.61% & female literacy at 46.53%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Chittorgarh, a city steeped in valor and heritage, offers a rich tapestry of historical landmarks, sacred sites, and natural wonders. Here's a curated guide to its most captivating attractions:

Historical Monuments

Chittorgarh Fort (Chittor Fort):

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Chittorgarh Fort stands as a testament to Rajput bravery and resilience. Spanning approximately 700 acres, it's one of India's largest forts, housing numerous palaces, temples, and towers.

Vijaya Stambha (Tower of Victory):

Erected by Rana Kumbha in 1448 CE to commemorate his triumph over Mahmud Khilji, this 37.2-meter-high tower is adorned with intricate carvings and inscriptions detailing the lineage of Mewar rulers.

Kirti Stambha (Tower of Fame):

Dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara, Adinath, this 22-meter-high tower predates the Vijaya Stambha and is embellished with Jain sculptures, reflecting the region's religious diversity.

Rana Kumbha Palace: Once the royal residence of Maharana Kumbha, this palace is renowned for its architectural grandeur and historical significance, including associations with Rani Padmini and the legendary act of Jauhar.

Padmini Palace: This three-story white marble structure is linked to the tale of Rani Padmini, whose reflection captivated Alauddin Khilji, leading to the infamous siege of Chittor. The palace offers panoramic views of the fort complex.

Temples & Sacred Sites

Kalika Mata Temple, originally a Sun temple from the 8th century, it was later dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali. The temple, restored during Rana Kumbha's reign, is a significant pilgrimage site, especially during Navratri.

Kumbha Shyam Temple, this temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and showcases Indo-Aryan architectural elements.

Samadhishvara Temple, situated near the Gaumukh Reservoir, this temple features a unique three-faced Shiva idol and exhibits a blend of architectural styles due to restorations spanning five centuries.

Sanwaliya Seth Temple (Sanwaliya Ji Mandir), located in Mandfiya, approximately 41 km from Chittorgarh, this temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is considered the second most significant pilgrimage site for Vaishnavites after Nathdwara.

Natural Attractions & Wildlife Sanctuaries

Gaumukh Reservoir, a sacred water tank within the fort, it receives water from a natural spring emerging from a cow-shaped rock formation. Pilgrims often feed the resident fish, and the nearby Samadhishvara Temple adds to its spiritual ambiance.

Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, 423 sq. km, this sanctuary is home to diverse flora like teak and bamboo, and fauna including flying squirrels, leopards, and four-horned antelopes.

Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, located 25 km from Chittorgarh, this sanctuary offers sightings of panthers, jackals, and antelopes amidst dense forests, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts.

Menal Waterfall and Temple Complex, renowned for its 150-meter-deep waterfall and ancient temples, often referred to as 'Mini Khajuraho' due to their intricate carvings.

Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, nestled at the confluence of the Bemany and Chambal rivers, this sanctuary boasts a rich biodiversity, including crocodiles, various bird species, and the historic Bhainsrorgarh Fort, now a heritage hotel.

Cultural Events & Festivals

Gangaur Festival: Celebrated in April, this 18-day festival honors Goddess Parvati with vibrant processions and rituals.

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – As of the latest available data, 16,896 hectares of forest land in Chittorgarh district have been recorded under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) initiatives.

State Plans – Data not available

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

Challenges:

Water Scarcity: Over-extraction of groundwater and erratic rainfall.

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Land Degradation: Fragmented landholdings and variable agricultural productivity.

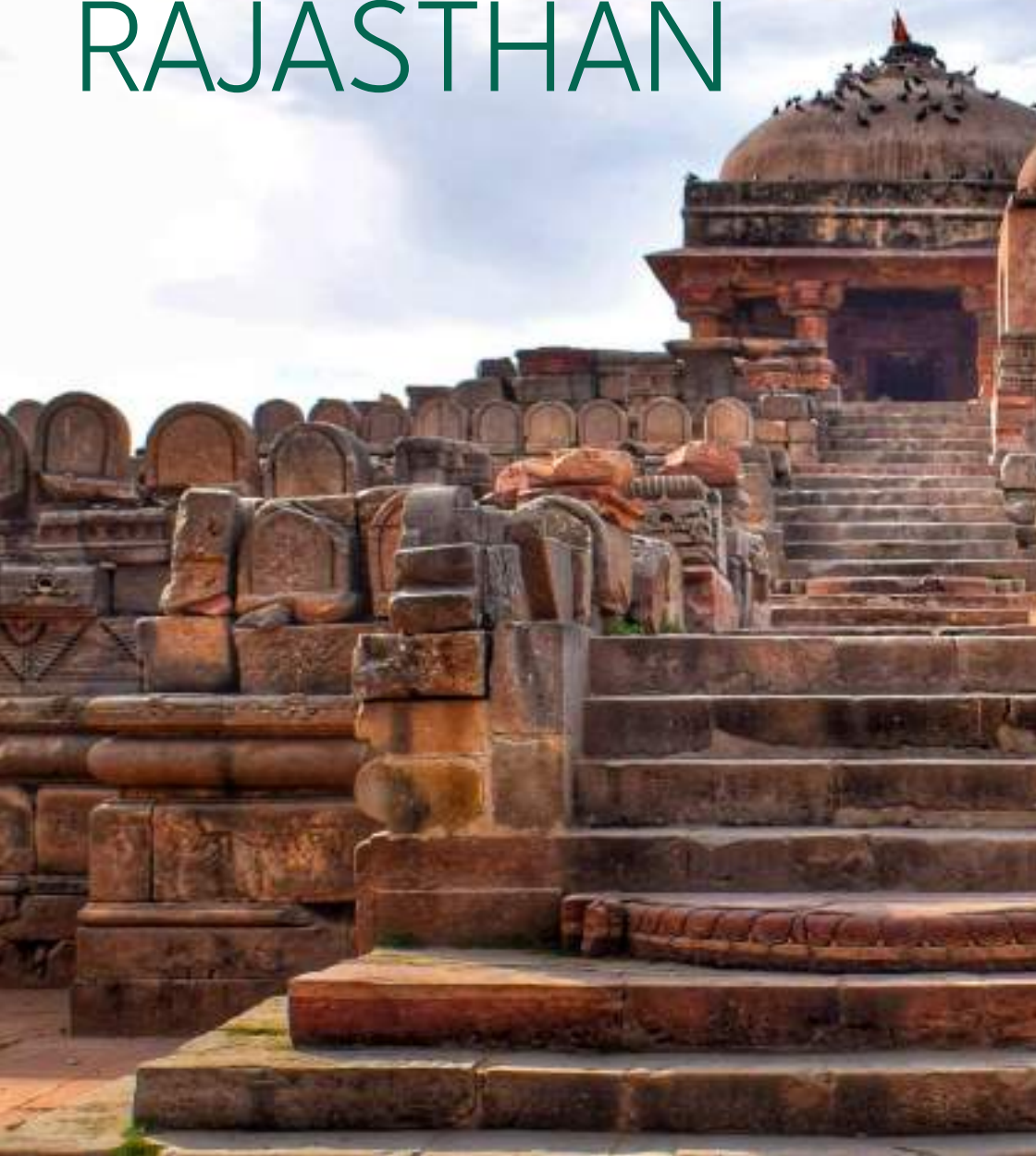
Invasive Species: Urban-rural divide in healthcare, education, & road connectivity.

Mining and Industrial impact





DISTRICT DAUSA RAJASTHAN





Dausa district, located in the eastern part of Rajasthan, India, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, historical significance, and vibrant traditions. The administrative headquarters of the district is Dausa town, which serves as a central hub for the region's economic and administrative activities.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Dausa district is situated in the north-eastern part of the state. It is located between 25.33' to 27.33' north latitude and between 76.50' to 76.90' eastern longitude. The district is situated on NH-21 from Jaipur to Agra which is just 55 Kms far from Jaipur. It is one of the 5 Districts of Jaipur division and is surrounded by Jaipur, Alwar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bharatpur and Tonk.

Area:

The area of the district is 3432 Sq. Kms. and ranks at 32nd among other districts of the state

Topography:

Physiographically, the most part of the terrain is plain intersected with several ranges of Aravali hills running from north-northeast to south-southwest. Hills of the district are parts or branches of the north Aravalli ranges. The Lalsot-Bayana Hill range forms important physiographic features of the district. This range runs from Lalsot to Bayana demarcate the boundary between Dausa and Sawai Madhopur. The Aravali exposures have a perfect concordant sequence of beds from Lalsot to Bayana ridge. A belt of crystalline quartzite is found in hills from Dausa to Bhankari, schistose quartzite is also predominately exposed. A large part of the district is covered by a thick

mantle of soil blown sand alluvium. The east and the north of quadrilateral circle of Dausa district are covered by hill ranges rising to over 200 mtr. above the surrounding plains. It has an average elevation of 380 meters (1243 feet).

Much of the district is covered by alluvium, blown sand, and soil, while the eastern and northern parts are marked by hill ranges rising over 200 meters above the plains. The district's average elevation is around 380 meters (1,243 feet).

Climate:

In district, except short duration of rainy season, the climate mostly remains dry. The average annual rainfall in the district is 515 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Dausa district in Rajasthan has a total forest area of

116.60 sq.km

forming about

3.39%

of its geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category and is predominantly dry tropical forests, featuring species like salar, teak, bamboo, and khair.



As per the 2025 data, the District had

13,487.21 ha

under the Reserved Forest,

14,974.73 ha

under the Protected Forest &

0.50 ha

under the unclassified forest categories.

Dausa district in Rajasthan does not have any designated national parks or wildlife sanctuaries within its boundaries. There are also currently no officially designated conservation reserves within Dausa district. Additionally, specific information regarding Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) in Dausa is also not readily available.

Wildlife:

The vegetation in Dausa primarily comprises tropical thorn forests, characterized by drought-resistant species adapted to arid conditions.

Notable flora includes Salar (*Boswellia serrata*), Khirni (*Manilkara hexandra*), Gular (*Ficus glomerata*), Bilpatra (*Aegle marmelos*), Gundi, Cirrus, Palas (*Butea monosperma*), Dhaunk, Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*), Amla (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Ashok (*Saraca asoca*), Morchadi, and Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*).

The fauna of Dausa reflects the district's varied habitats, ranging from dry deciduous forests to grasslands. Commonly observed wildlife includes Leopards, hyenas, jackals, nilgai (blue bulls), wild boars, langurs, and mongooses, Peacocks, partridges, and various migratory birds frequent the region, especially near water bodies. Various snake species also inhabit the area, contributing to the ecological diversity.

Water Bodies:

Dausa district in Rajasthan features a network of rivers, dams, and traditional water structures.

Dausa District has constructed approximately 36 dams to harness river and rainwater for irrigation and drinking purposes. Notable dams include Madhosagar Bandh, Morel Bandh, Kalakho Bandh and Sainthal Sagar Dam.

Amongst the traditional water structures are Chand Baori in Abhaneri village, Bandikui Tehsil which is one of the deepest and largest stepwells in India and Jhajhirampura, located approximately 45 km from Dausa headquarters, near Baswa (Bandikui) and known for its natural water tank and temples dedicated to deities like Rudra (Shiva) and Balaji (Hanuman), set amidst hills and water resources.

Major rivers:

The main rivers of the district are Banganga, Morel, Suri, and Sawa.

Sacred Groves:

12 Sacred groves exist in Dausa district.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Dausa had a population of

1,634,409

comprising

857,787 males

776,622 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

905 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 12.35% of the population resides in urban areas, while 87.65% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

476 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Dausa district, situated in the semi-arid eastern plains of Rajasthan, has an economy predominantly driven by agriculture, complemented by small-scale industries and mineral-based enterprises.

Major crops include bajra, wheat, mustard, gram, groundnut, barley, guar, sesame, and taramira. The predominant farming systems in Dausa combine crop cultivation with dairy and horticulture enterprises.

Dausa hosts approximately 3,497 registered small and micro-industrial units as of March 2015. Key industrial sectors include Mineral-Based Industries, Agro-Based Industries like Dal mills, confectionery (toffee), pickles, jam, tomato paste, bread and biscuit units, Engineering-Based Industries: Manufacture of agricultural implements, steel furniture, and rolling shutters and others which include stone crushers, electronic transformers, marble and stone cutting units, furniture manufacturing, atta and dal mills, white coal production, and mineral grinding. Primary minerals found in the district are silica sand, soap stone,

dolomite and quartzite, whereas in secondary minerals - missionary stones, kankar, bajri, marble block, kharda, patti-katla slate stone and bricks are found.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

68.16%

with male literacy at 82.98% &
female literacy at 51.93%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Dausa district, often referred to as "Deva Nagri" or "City of the Gods," is a treasure trove of historical, architectural, and spiritual sites. Situated approximately 55 km from Jaipur, Dausa offers a blend of ancient monuments, revered temples, and vibrant cultural experiences.

Historical & Architectural Marvels

Chand Baori, Abhaneri, is one of India's deepest and largest stepwells, Chand Baori dates back to the 8th–9th century. With 3,500 narrow steps descending 13 stories, it showcases the architectural ingenuity of the era. Adjacent to it is the Harshat Mata Temple,

dedicated to the goddess of joy and happiness

Bhandarej, also known as Bhadrawati during the Mahabharata era, Bhandarej boasts the 11th-century Bhandarej Baori (stepwell) and remnants of ancient sculptures and terracotta artifacts. The area is also renowned for traditional carpet weaving.

Lotwara Fort, constructed in the 17th century by Thakur Ganga Singh, this fort is notable for its architecture and the large population of peacocks in the vicinity, earning it the nickname "Peacock Village."

Spiritual and Religious Sites

Mehandipur Balaji Temple, dedicated to Lord Hanuman, this temple is famed for ritualistic healing and exorcism practices. Devotees from across the country visit seeking relief from spiritual afflictions.

Neelkanth Mahadev Temple, perched atop Devgiri Hill, this 9th–11th-century temple dedicated to Lord Shiva requires ascending 365 steps. It's especially popular during Mahashivratri and the Sawan month festivals.

Papraj Mata Temple, located near Lalsot, this 1,000-year-old temple dedicated to Papraj Mata attracts numerous devotees, especially during the annual fairs held in the Chaitra and Ashwin months.

Jhajhirampura, a serene village known for its natural water tank and temples dedicated to deities like Rudra (Shiva) and Balaji (Hanuman), offering both spiritual solace and natural beauty

Cultural Experiences

Abhaneri Festival, a two-day festival celebrates the rich heritage of Abhaneri with traditional Rajasthani folk performances like Kachhi Ghorī, Kalbeliya, Ghoomar, and Bhawai. It coincides with the post-monsoon season, enhancing the region's allure.

Hela Khayal Sangeet Danga, Lalsot, is a 265-year-old musical tradition held during the Gangaur festival, featuring continuous 48-hour performances that blend music with social commentary, reflecting local issues and stories.

Basant Panchami Mela, held annually in Baradari Mela Maidan, this month-long fair includes worship of deities like Raghunath ji and Narsingh ji, along with a vibrant local market catering to villagers' needs.

Nature & Wildlife

Getolav Bird Habitat, is a haven for birdwatchers, this wetland area attracts various migratory birds, offering a tranquil environment for nature enthusiasts.

Khawaraoji village is home to a heritage hotel and offers panoramic views, making it a perfect retreat for those seeking peace and natural beauty.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA –1500 Ha approx (last 10 years)
- State Plans – 1600 approx (last 10 years)
- Nagar Van Yojana – 65 ha
- Under Externally Aided
- Project – 700 Ha (AFD)
- NABARD- 2750 Ha approx (last 10 years)

Challenges

- Water Scarcity: Over-extraction of groundwater and erratic rainfall.
- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion: Fragmented landholdings and variable agricultural productivity.
- Loss of Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation
- Mining and Industrial impact
- Air and Dust Pollution



DISTRICT DUNGARPUR RAJASTHAN





The district Dungarpur is named after 'the town of hillocks' and the capital of the former princely state of Dungarpur. It is located in the southern part of Rajasthan between 23° 20' and 24° 01' north latitude and 73° 21' and 74° 01' east longitude. The town of Dungarpur itself is said to have been a Bhil ' Pal' or a hamlet of 'Dungaria', a Bhil Chieftain whom Rawal Veer Singh Dev caused to be assassinated in the fourteenth century.

It was in 1945 that the 'Dungarpur Rajya Praja Mandal' came into existence and a year later in 1946, a demand was made for grant of responsible Government under the aegis of the ruler. In March, 1948 the ruler announced the grant of responsible Government. However, on the inauguration of the United States of Rajasthan the local Government came to an end when the administration of the State was handed over to ' Rajpramukh' of the newly formed union of State and Dungarpur was constituted as a district of the United States of Rajasthan.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Dungarpur district is located in the southernmost part of Rajasthan at 23.200 to 24.010 latitude and 73.210 to 74.230 longitudes. To the east and north it borders Banswara and Udaipur districts respectively while to the south and west it meets the state of Gujarat. Dungarpur is the smallest district in the state covering only 3,85,592 hectares, which is 1.13% of the total area of Rajasthan.

Topography:

Most of the district is mountainous. The overall land productivity for the entire district is considered low, with somewhat poor conditions found in its southern and western corners

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate:

The climate of the district is dry and the temperature is extreme with a maximum temperature of +41.50 in May and an absolute maximum of +45.0c.

The coldest month is January, with temperatures falling to about +5.0c during the night, but daytime temperatures are still above +20.0c. The average rainfall of the district is 710 mm and there are considerable variations from year to year and drought conditions are common in the district.

Dungarpur district in Rajasthan has both forested areas and natural resources like minerals and water. The district's forests, primarily teak, cover about

17.98%

of the total area. It also boasts a variety of wildlife including leopards, Neelgai, foxes, hyana etc., and various bird species. The Mahi River flows nearby, and the region has significant deposits of minerals.

Forest Cover:

Dungarpur has a total forest area of

69,330 ha

which is about

17.98%

of the district's total area of

3,85,592 ha

Dominant Tree Species:

Teak is a prominent tree species in the forests of Dungarpur.

Other Trees:

Tendu, Mahuwa and Mango trees are abundant, and other trees like Arjun, Mango, Imli, Ber, dhok,

Butea, khirni, churel , Jamun are also found in the district.

Dungarpur does not contain any National Parks and Conservation Reserves:

Rivers: Mahi and Som

Minerals: Dungarpur is rich in minerals including

Groundwater: Ground water is available in the district and is suitable for both irrigation and drinking purposes.

Wildlife: The forests support a diverse range of wildlife, including leopards, Panthers, Hyenas, Sambar, Nilgais, Jackals etc., Birds: Common birds in the region include Painted Stork, fowl, partridge, black drongo, grey shrike, green bee-eater, bulbul, and parrot.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Dungarpur had a population of

1,388,552

comprising

696,532 males

692,020 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

994 females for every
1,000 males

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Jainisim and Islam.

ECONOMY

Minerals

Dungarpur economy is largely dependent on agriculture and mineral resources, with a significant portion of the workforce engaged in agricultural labor.

The district also has not significant mining activities however it has notable mining items like soapstone, quartz, marble, masanory stone.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the primary sector of the economy, with a large percentage of the population involved in farming and agricultural labor.

A significant portion of the workforce is employed as cultivators and agricultural laborers. The district produces various Agriculture crops like whaet, maize, rice, soybean, bengalgram, tur , urd, mung etc.,

literacy Rate

The Dungarpur district literacy rate, based on the 2011 census, is.

59.46%

his includes a male literacy rate of 72.88% & a female literacy rate of 46.16%. The district's literacy rate is higher than the national average of 59.5%

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Dungarpur, offers a blend of historical and natural attractions, making it a popular tourist destination. The district is known for its palaces, temples, and scenic lake.

Baneshwar Temple: A significant Hindu temple situated where there is the confluence of three rivers like Som, Mahi and Jhakam, particularly revered by the Bhil tribal communities. Baneshwar fair is an annual tribal fair held in Dungarpur district in Rajasthan state of India. The fair is held in the month of January or February (2 weeks following the new moon night in the month of Magh at Baneshwar, near the confluence of the Som and Mahi rivers.

A significant This fair is a major fair in tribal culture and has been described as "the Kumbh mela for the tribals

Juna Mahal: This 13th-century fort-palace, perched on a hill, offers panoramic views of the city.

Udai Bilas Palace: A heritage hotel on the banks of Gaib Sagar Lake, it is known for its hospitality and serene views.

Gaib Sagar Lake: This lake is a major attraction, with Badal Mahal and other monuments located on its banks.

Badal Mahal: Located on the banks of Gaib Sagar Lake, this palace offers a glimpse into the royal past.

Deo Somnath Temple: A well-known Shiva temple in situated at Faloj, Dungarpur.

Ongoing Interventions

- CAMPA – last five year plantation was done on 1707 ha
- State Plans – last five year plantation was done on 5010 ha
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges

Land Degradation & Soil Erosion
Human-wildlife conflict,
especially involving leopards
near villages.

Habitat fragmentation due to
agriculture and industry.

Water scarcity due to weather
abberations impacting wildlife
habitats.

Forest Fires during summer
Invasive Species infestation-
Prosopis, Lentana and Jungle
Tulsi



DISTRICT JAIPUR RAJASTHAN





Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan which was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II on November 18, 1727. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II was a Kachwaha Rajput who ruled Jaipur from 1699-1743. Prior to Jaipur, his capital was Amber which is 11 km away from Jaipur.

With the increase of population, the king felt the need to shift the capital city. Another reason to shift the capital was the scarcity of water in Amber region.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Jaipur is located between latitudes 26.44°N and 27.51°N and longitudes 74.55°E to 76.53°E. It covers an area of approximately 11,143 square kilometers and has a diverse physical landscape that reflects both the arid nature of western Rajasthan and the relatively greener plains of the east. The district is bounded by Sikar and Alwar in the north, Dausa in the east, Tonk in the south, and Ajmer and Nagaur in the west.

Area:

The area of the district is 11143.90 Sq. Kms.

Topography:

The topography of Jaipur district is a mix of rugged hills and gently undulating plains. The northern and eastern parts of the district are marked by the presence of the Aravalli Hills—India's oldest fold mountain range. These hills are composed mainly of quartzite and granite and are characterized by their rugged, rocky structure and steep slopes. Notable features include the hills around Amer Fort, as well as the Nahargarh and Jaigarh ranges that overlook Jaipur city. Some of these hill elevations rise above 600 meters and play a key role in shaping

the microclimate and drainage patterns of the region. In contrast, the central and southern parts of the district are dominated by gently sloping plains. These areas are primarily composed of sandy loam and loamy soils, interspersed with rocky outcrops. The plains are agriculturally productive but depend heavily on irrigation due to the district's semi-arid climate. Aeolian (wind-blown) processes have influenced the western parts of the district, where sand dunes and patches of desert soil are found, giving it a transitional character between arid and semi-arid zones.

The average elevation of the district is approximately 431 meters above sea level.

Climate:

Jaipur district experiences a semi-arid climate, characterized by extremely hot summers, a brief monsoon season, and mild winters. The climate is governed largely by its inland location, proximity to the Thar Desert, and the influence of the Aravalli hills. Summer typically spans from April to June, with temperatures often soaring above 40°C, and occasionally reaching as high as 45°C in peak months like May.

During this period, hot and dry winds known as loo blow across the region, intensifying the heat and increasing evapotranspiration.

The monsoon season, is from July to September, with the rainfall being moderate and highly variable, averaging between 500 to 600 millimeters annually, with significant inter-annual fluctuations.

The northeastern Aravalli ranges can influence localized rainfall patterns, sometimes resulting in slightly higher precipitation in those regions compared to the central plains.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Jaipur district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest cover of approximately

564.58 sq.km

accounting for about

5.07%

of its total geographical area of

11,143 sq.km

while recorded forest area is

942.56 sq.km

accounting for about

8.46%

of its total geographical area.

The majority of district's forest area falls under the reserved forest category and is predominantly Tropical Dry Deciduous forests, featuring species like Dhonk, Churel, Kumtha, Palash.

As per the records of Rajasthan Forest Department, the District had

69,355 ha

under the Reserved Forest,

24,424 ha

under the Protected Forest &

477 ha

under the unclassified forest categories.

Jaipur district is home to significant protected areas that contribute to its ecological diversity. There are no National Parks located within Jaipur district. However, two wildlife sanctuaries namely Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary spanning approximately 50 km² in the Aravalli Hills near Jaipur, and serving as a vital green buffer and a part of the ecological corridor connecting the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve with other forest regions of Rajasthan, and Jamwa Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, covering about 300 km² northeast of Jaipur.

It encompasses the now-dry Ramgarh Lake basin and surrounding forests, providing a habitat for various species and contributing to the region's biodiversity.

Both Nahargarh and Jamwa Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries have notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)

to control environmentally harmful activities in their surrounding areas. As of ISFR 2023 and Rajasthan Forest Department data, two conservation reserves namely Aamagarh - Jhalana Conservation Reserve and Beed Muhana Conservation Reserve are listed within Jaipur district.

Wildlife:

Wildlife in the district include Leopard, hyena, jackal, blue bull (nilgai), sambar, peafowl, and various reptiles and birds.

Jaipur falls within the semi-arid zone of Rajasthan, and its vegetation is characterized by tropical dry deciduous forests and thorn scrub forests, especially in the Aravalli hill ranges and protected areas like Nahargarh and Jamwa Ramgarh.

Dominant tree species include *Acacia nilotica* (Babul/Kikar), *Prosopis juliflora* (Vilayati Babul – invasive), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Shisham), *Boswellia serrata* (Sali guggul), and *Butea monosperma* (Flame of the Forest / Dhak)

Water Bodies:

Jaipur district, being part of the semi-arid region of eastern Rajasthan, has limited natural water bodies. Most water sources are seasonal and heavily reliant on monsoon rains. Seasonal rivers include Banas, Bandi, Sabi, Dhund, Banganga and Amanishah ka Naala (Dravyavati river). Lakes and

artificial reservoirs in the district include Ramgarh lake, Mansagar and Chandlai lakes. Jaipur and its surrounding areas are also known for traditional rainwater harvesting structure, and include Panna Meena ka Kund (Amber) and Galta Kund which is a natural spring-fed pools in the Aravallis. These systems were vital for water storage and are now heritage sites. Sambhar Lake with an area of approx 24000 Ha also is located in the district.

Major Rivers:

The main rivers of the district are Banas, Bandi , Sabi, Dhund, Banganga, Dhund and Amanishah ka Naala (Dravyavati river)

Sacred Groves:

Sacred groves in Jaipur district represent an important form of traditional ecological knowledge and community-based conservation. These groves—locally known as "Orans," "Dev-vans," or "Bilas"—are patches of forest preserved due to religious or spiritual beliefs, often associated with deities, ancestral spirits, or local folklore. There are about 25 sacred groves in the district.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Jaipur had a population of

6,664,971

comprising

3,494,630 males

3,170,341 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

907 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 48.5% of the population resides in urban areas, while 51.5% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

The economic activities in Jaipur district, focusing on agriculture, industry, and other key sectors that drive the local economy.

Agriculture remains an important livelihood, especially in the rural parts of Jaipur district.

Major crops include bajra, maize, moong (green gram) and cotton,

pulses, wheat, mustard, gram, barley.

Irrigation is mostly dependent on wells, tube wells, and canals from the Sawai Madhopur Canal system; however, water scarcity is a challenge in some parts.

Jaipur district is a major industrial hub in Rajasthan, with a diversified industrial base, and includes Textiles and handicrafts, gems and precious stones, engineering and manufacturing, tourism. Sitapura, Bagru, and Tonk Road Industrial Areas are prominent zones with various factories and units.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

76.44%

with male literacy at 87.38% & female literacy at 64.93%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Amber Fort (Amer Fort),

Located about 11 km from Jaipur city is a magnificent hilltop fort-palace built in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh, and is famous for Elephant rides to the fort are popular among tourists.

City Palace, Jaipur, located in the heart of Jaipur city, is the royal residence of Jaipur's Maharajas, combining Rajasthani and Mughal architecture, and includes the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, and museums displaying royal artifacts, textiles, and weapons.

Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), is an iconic five-story pink sandstone facade with numerous windows, and is a symbol of Jaipur's architectural ingenuity and a major photo spot.

Jantar Mantar, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located near City Palace, is a 18th-century astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, and features large stone instruments for tracking celestial bodies.

Nahargarh Fort, perched on the Aravalli hills overlooking Jaipur offers scenic views of Jaipur city and is a popular spot for sunset visits.

Jaigarh Fort, is located close to Amber Fort, and is known for housing the world's largest cannon on wheels, the Jaivana Cannon. This served as a military fortification and storage for royal treasures.

Galta Ji (Monkey Temple), is an ancient Hindu pilgrimage site with natural springs and sacred kunds (water tanks), and is famous for large population of monkeys and temple complex nestled in rocky hills.



Albert Hall Museum, is located in the Ram Niwas Garden, and is the oldest museum of Rajasthan with extensive collections of artifacts, paintings, carpets, and sculptures.

Birla Mandir (Laxmi Narayan Temple), is a modern marble temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi, and is located at the base of Moti Dungari Hill.

Chandlai Lake, is an important bird sanctuary near Jaipur, a seasonal lake attracting migratory birds, including flamingos.

Shopping & Cultural Experiences

Johari Bazaar: Famous for jewelry, especially precious stones and traditional Rajasthani designs.

Bapu Bazaar: Known for textiles, handicrafts, and leather goods.

Chokhi Dhani: A cultural village resort offering folk dance, Rajasthani cuisine, and rural lifestyle experiences.

Festivals & Events

Jaipur Literature Festival: World-renowned literary event attracting authors, thinkers, and artists.

Teej Festival: Celebrated with great fervor featuring processions, traditional music, and dance.

Gangaur Festival: Dedicated to Goddess Gauri, marked by colorful rituals and fairs.

Elephant Festival: Held near Holi, showcasing decorated elephants, folk performances, and

Ongoing Interventions

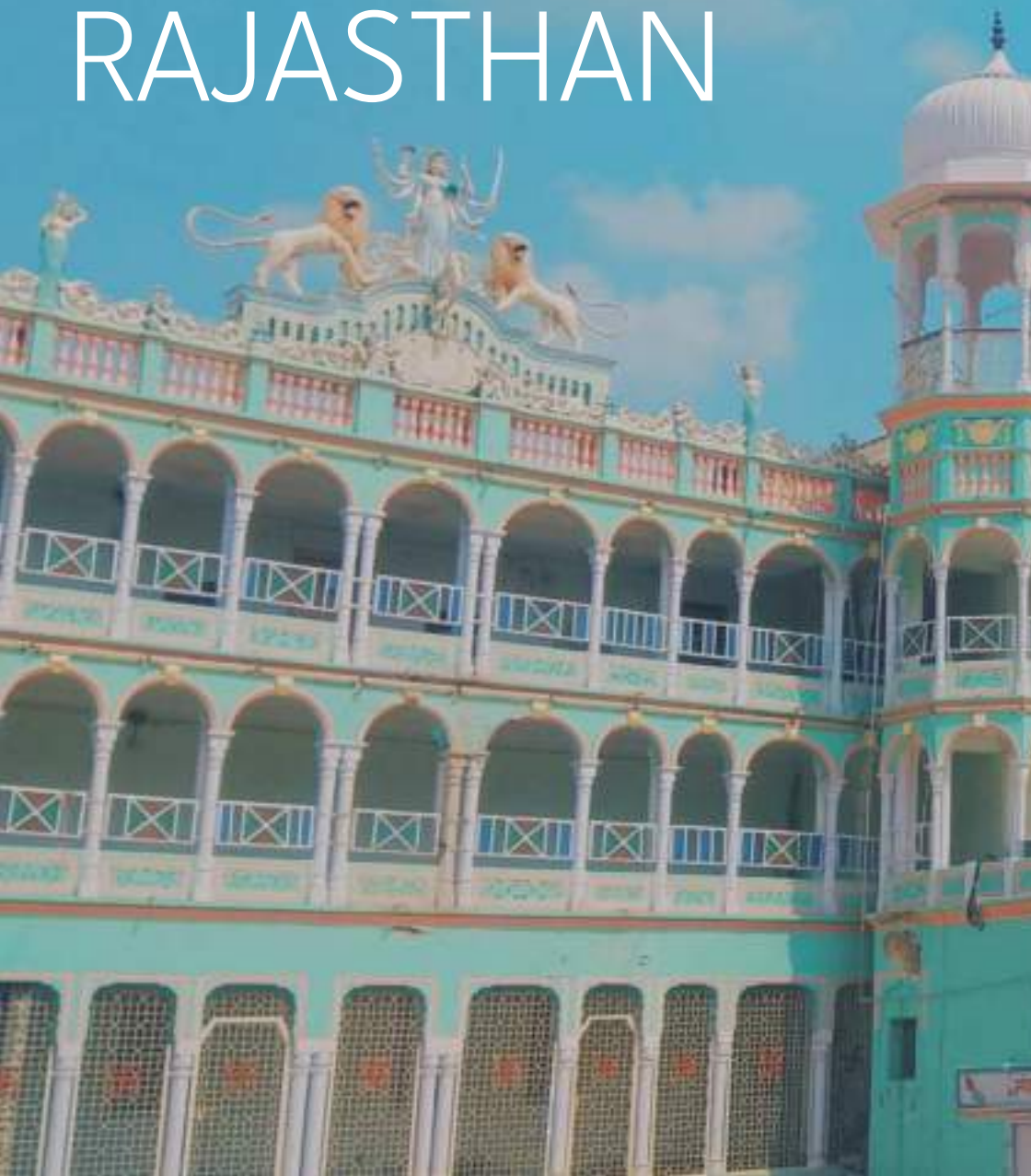
- CAMPA – 2151.35 ha (last 10 years).
- State Plans – 2100 ha
- Nagar Van Yojana – 54 ha
- Under Externally Aided Project – 50 ha.


Challenges

- Declining monsoon reliability and over-extraction of groundwater
- Pollution of urban water bodies (Mansagar, Dravyavati Nallah)
- Loss of wetlands and traditional water systems due to urbanization
- Restoration efforts underway in some key sites (e.g., Mansagar, Dravyavati)



DISTRICT JHUNJHUNU RAJASTHAN





Jhunjhunu is known for its rich heritage, vibrant culture, and significant contributions to education and defence services.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Jhunjhunu is situated in the northeastern part of Rajasthan, within the Shekhawati region and is located between latitudes 27.38° to 28.36° N and longitudes 75.02° to 76.06° E. It shares boundaries with Churu to the west, Sikar to the south, and Haryana state (Mahendragarh and Bhiwani districts) to the north and east.

Area:

The area of the district is 5928 Sq. Kms.

Topography:

Jhunjhunu's terrain is a combination of semi-arid plains, undulating sand dunes, and rocky hillocks and fertile plains in some regions. The Aravalli hills pass through the eastern parts, particularly near Khetri. Soils: Sandy loam is predominant, suitable for dryland farming.

The average elevation of the district is between 300-450 meters above sea level. The highest points are in the Khetri belt, rising along the low Aravalli hills.

Climate:

Jhunjhunu experiences a semi-arid climate, characteristic of dry and hot summers, cool winters, and scanty, irregular rainfall. The district is part of the Shekhawati region, which lies on the transition zone between the Thar Desert and the Aravalli hills. Average Annual Rainfall: ~450 mm to 550 mm, which is highly erratic and unevenly distributed, both temporally and spatially. Over 85% of rainfall occurs during the monsoon season (July to September).

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

405.36 sq.km

accounting for about

6.84%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category and is predominantly tropical thorn forests, featuring species like Acacia, Prosopis, khair, ber etc.

As per the 2023 data, the district had

6.02 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

399.33 sq.km

under the Protected Forest &

10.169 sq.km

under the deemed/unclassified forest categories.

Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan does not encompass any National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries. However, it boasts several Conservation Reserves that play a pivotal role in preserving the region's biodiversity and

ecological balance and include Beed Jhunjhunu CR, Bansiyal Khetri CR, Mansa Mata CR, Shakhambari CR and Bansiyal-Khetri-Bagor CR. An ESZ has been notified around the Beed Jhunjhunu CR.

Wildlife:

Jhunjhunu's vegetation is typical of the tropical thorn forest and dry deciduous forest types found in Rajasthan's semi-arid regions, and predominantly include Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) - also known as the "King of Desert," Dhonk (*Anogeissus pendula*), Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), Kair (*Capparis decidua*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Salai (*Boswellia serrata*), and *Prosopis juliflora* (Vilayati Babul).

Jhunjhunu also supports a range of wildlife adapted to thorny scrublands and rocky hills and include nilgai, Fox, Jackal, Blackbuck, hare and Hyena, besides many birds and reptiles including Indian King Cobra.

Water Bodies:

Jhunjhunu is part of the Sabi River basin (also spelled Sahibi or Sabi), which is the main river flowing through the district. The district has several natural and man-made ponds and small lakes, often

referred to as “talabs” or “kunds”, used traditionally for water storage, irrigation, and livestock. Many of these are rain-fed and tend to dry up in the summer. Important lakes/ponds include Jhunjhunu Lake near the city area, and Khetri Talab in the Khetri tehsil.

Major Rivers:

The main river of the district is Sabi, a seasonal river originating in the Aravalli hills near Jaipur and flows northeast towards Haryana.

Sacred Groves:

Sacred groves in Jhunjhunu are typically small forest patches or clusters of trees found near villages or on hillsides, especially around the Aravalli hill ranges. Many villages across Jhunjhunu maintain sacred groves linked to temples of Mansa Mata, Shakambhari Mata, and other regional deities.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Jhunjhunu had a population of

2,137,045

comprising

1,095,896 males

1,041,149 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

950 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 24% of the population resides in urban areas, while 76% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

360 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the backbone of Jhunjhunu’s economy, engaging a significant portion of the rural population.

Major crops include bajra, maize, moth bean, guar and cotton, wheat, mustard, gram, and cumin.

Limited canal irrigation; most irrigation depends on wells, tube wells, and small reservoirs. Water scarcity and erratic rainfall pose challenges to productivity.

Jhunjhunu has a developing industrial base with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and includes Textiles and garments, mining, marbles and stone,

chemicals, and engineering and manufacturing. Traditional crafts like pottery, embroidery, and weaving are practiced in rural areas.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

74.01%

with male literacy at 86.09% & female literacy at 61.00%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Jhunjhunu is part of the famous Shekhawati region, known for its rich cultural heritage and stunning frescoed havelis (mansions). The district attracts tourists for its unique blend of architecture, history, and art. Major attractions include-

Frescoed Havelis: Beautifully painted mansions with elaborate frescoes including Rao Shekha Ka Bas, Nawalgarh famous for Murmuia Haveli, Modi Haveli, and Chokhani Haveli, and Mandawa which is famous for its fort and richly decorated havelis. Mandawa is a key tourist spot.

Historical & Architectural Sites

Jhunjhunu Fort, a 17th-century fort with impressive architecture and panoramic views of the city.

Pilani, known for the Birla Temple (Laxminarayan Temple), a beautiful marble temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Khetri Mahal, located in Khetri tehsil, this palace was built by the rulers of Khetri and is an excellent example of Rajput architecture.

Rani Sati Temple, Jhunjhunu, a famous pilgrimage site dedicated to Rani Sati, attracting devotees from across India.

Religious & Spiritual Sites

Mansa Mata Temple, located in the Aravalli hills, this temple dedicated to Goddess Mansa Mata is a popular spiritual destination and pilgrimage center.

Shakambhari Mata Temple, a revered temple dedicated to Goddess Shakambhari, situated in the nearby hills.

Cultural Festivals

Shekhawati Festival: Celebrated with folk music, dance, and fairs, showcasing local culture and crafts.

Rani Sati Mela: An annual religious fair attracting thousands of devotees.

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – 5942.9493 ha
(2015-16 to 2024-25).

50 Hectare plantation is
proposed in 2025-26.

State Plans – As per the data
available, In the year 2022-23,
tree plantation was carried out
in 1800 hectares, in 2023-24,
1600 hectares, and in 2024
-25, 1650 hectares plantation
was done and in 2025-26,
250 hectares plantation is
proposed under different
departmental schemes.

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided
Project – NA

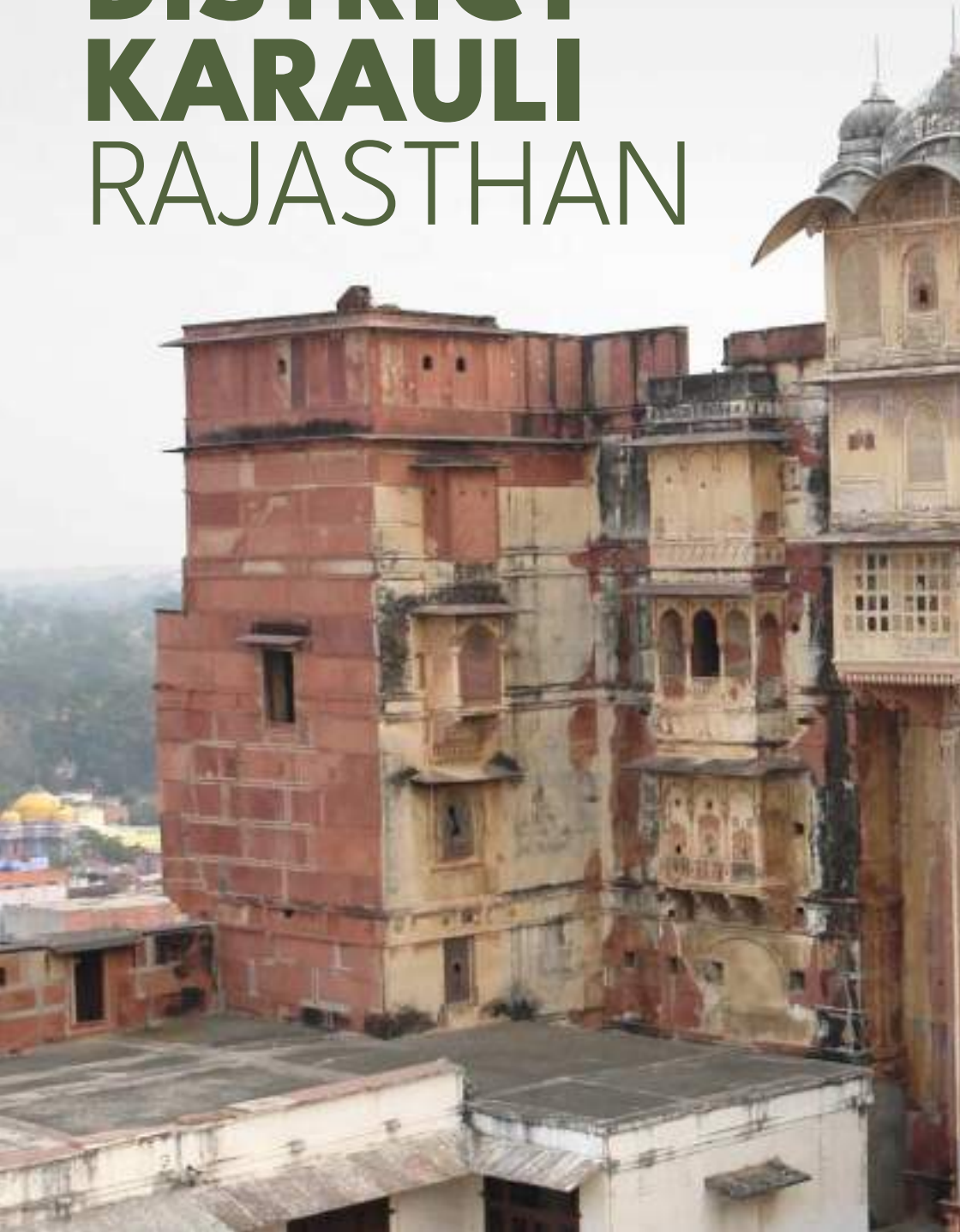
Challenges:

Water Scarcity, due to
declining monsoon reliability
and over-extraction of
groundwater

Human wildlife conflict



DISTRICT KARAULI RAJASTHAN





District Karauli falls under “Nizamat” of ancient regions of Karauli state along with Hindaun and Gangapur of Jaipur state. It was named Kalyanpuri by Yaduwanshi rulers. Karl Marx and Colonel James Todd has mentioned in their book about Karauli. Karauli state was merged with Matsya group in April, 1949. It was merged with Jaipur state and became part of the United State of Greater Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan announced creation of Karauli district which was carved out of five Tehsils of Sawai Madhopur on 1st March, 1997. Karauli district, located in eastern Rajasthan, India, is renowned for its rich historical heritage, religious significance, and scenic landscapes.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Karauli district, located in the eastern part of Rajasthan, is part of the Bharatpur Division and lies in the semi-arid region of the state. and is located between latitudes 26.3° to 26.49° North and longitudes 76.35° to 77.26° East. The district is bordered by Dholpur, Bharatpur, Dausa, and Sawai Madhopur districts.

Area:

The area of the district is 5524 Sq. Kms.

Topography:

Karauli district lies between the Aravalli hill ranges in the northwest and the Vindhyan plateau in the southeast. Its topography can broadly be divided into Hilly and undulating terrain (southern and south eastern parts), Plateau and plains (ventral and western parts), and Riverine belt (with floodplains created by Chambal and Kalisil rivers). This area is full of natural beauty and is covered with Vindhyachal mountain ranges. Some part of the district is flat and most part is high-low and hilly. plains are

The average elevation of the district is between 400-600 meters above sea level.

Climate:

The climate of the district is semi-arid with extreme temperatures; hot summers and cool winters. Average annual rainfall is around 650 mm, mainly from the southwest monsoon (July–September). Rainfall variability significantly affects agriculture and groundwater recharge.

cover plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting wildlife habitats, including parts of the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary and corridors of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Forest Cover:

As per the 2023 data, the district had

62.99 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

1675.55 sq.km

under the Protected Forest and

64.27 sq.km

under the deemed/unclassified forest categories.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Karauli district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

1802.41 sq.km

accounting for about

32.63%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category and the district's significant forest

Karauli district in Rajasthan is home to several significant protected areas, including wildlife sanctuaries and a tiger reserve. This include Dholpur-Karauli Tiger reserve, Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary.

As of May 2025, Karauli district in Rajasthan does not have any officially designated Conservation Reserves. As of May 2025, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) in Karauli district, Rajasthan, are in various stages of notification and implementation, which include areas of Kailadevi WLS and Dholpur-Karauli Tiger reserve.

Wildlife:

The important trees found across district are Neem, Babul, Baiiry, Dhonk, Ronj, Tendu, Salar, Khair, Santha, Jamun, Mango,

Ghaneri, Bamboo, Khejda, Banyan, Peepal etc. The prominent medicinal plants found across the area are Audhijada, Chichda, Polar, Kaalilamp, Lapla, Kainch, Gugal etc. Forest of the district provides building wood, fuel, coal from wood, fodder for animals, grass, tendupata, gound, dhok leaf, honey, wax, medicinal fruits, kattha, karnaj and other useful things.

Karauli district has rich resources in the form of wild life, where various types of wild animals are found. Panther, Wild Dog, Sambhar, Neel Gaye, Chital, Chinkara, Wild Pig, Badgers are prominent.

Water Bodies:

Karauli district in Rajasthan is endowed with a variety of water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and dams, which play a crucial role in the region's ecology, agriculture, and water supply. Panchana, Jaggar and Kalisil Lake are the main reservoirs. Kalisil Lake is situated between Kaila Devi and Bharatpur and is a perennial lake known for its scenic beauty and as a habitat for over 120 species of birds.

Major Rivers:

The main river of the district is Chambal, followed by Gambhir, Parbati and Kakund.

Sacred Groves:

In Karauli district, Rajasthan, sacred groves—locally known as

Orans—are integral to the region's cultural and ecological heritage, and include Kaila Devi temple forest, Gufa temple Grove and Kadam Khundidi Sacred Grove

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Karauli had a population of

1,458,248

comprising

783,639 males

674,609 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of

861 females for every
1000 males.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

264 persons per sq.km.

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 14.96% of the population resides in urban areas, while 85.04% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Karauli district's economy is predominantly agrarian, with agriculture being the main source of livelihood for the majority of its population. The district's fertile plains, supported by rivers like the Gambhir and Chambal and several irrigation projects such as the Panchana and Jaggar dams, facilitate the cultivation of crops like wheat, mustard, gram, barley, and millet. Despite this, agriculture here largely remains dependent on monsoon rains, making it vulnerable to droughts and water scarcity. Besides crop farming, animal husbandry also plays a significant role in supporting rural incomes.

On the industrial front, Karauli has limited industrial development, with small-scale and cottage industries such as handicrafts, pottery, and textile weaving forming the backbone of its industrial activities. These industries often cater to local markets and traditional demand rather than large-scale commercial production. Additionally, the district's economy benefits from tourism related to religious sites like the Kaila Devi temple and nearby wildlife sanctuaries, which provide employment opportunities in hospitality and ancillary services.



literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

55.26%

with male literacy at 67.88%
female literacy at 40.61%.



TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Karauli district in Rajasthan is a treasure trove of cultural, architectural, and spiritual heritage, offering a range of attractions that cater to history enthusiasts, pilgrims, and nature lovers alike.

Forts & Palaces

Karauli City Palace, a 14th-century marvel, this palace showcases a blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture and offers visitors a glimpse into royal life through its murals, stone carvings, and lattice work.

Hindaun Fort, a significant historical site.

Timangarh Fort, located near Masalpur, this fort is known for its 50 temples

Temples & Spiritual Sites

Kaila Devi Temple, dedicated to Goddess Kaila Devi, this temple attracts thousands of devotees, especially during the Kaila Devi Annual Fair. It's situated on the banks of the Kalisil River amidst the Aravalli hills.

Madan Mohan Ji Temple: Believed to house an idol brought from Vrindavan, this temple is a significant pilgrimage site. The morning aarti here is a spiritual highlight.

Shri Mahavir Ji Temple: a Jain temple known for its intricate architecture and annual fair during Mahavir Jayanti, attracting pilgrims from various communities.

Mehandipur Balaji Temple: Dedicated to Lord Hanuman, this temple is renowned for its rituals aimed at healing and exorcism, drawing numerous visitors seeking spiritual solace.

Gomti Dham: An ashram of Sant Gomti Das Ji, this peaceful retreat is set against the backdrop of Sagar Talab and Timangarh Fort, offering a tranquil environment for visitors.

Festivals & Fairs

Kaila Devi Annual Fair: Held during the festival of Kaila Devi, this fair features vibrant processions, cultural performances, and a bustling marketplace.

Mahavir Jayanti Fair: Celebrated at Shri Mahavir Ji Temple, this fair includes religious discourses, processions, and cultural events, attracting a diverse group of pilgrims.

Animal Fair at Karauli: Coinciding with Shivratri, this fair is one of Rajasthan's oldest, featuring the sale and purchase of various animals, along with a vibrant marketplace

Ongoing Interventions


- State Plan – 600 Ha. Planting (2024-25)
- RFBDP – 300 Ha. Planting (2024-25)
- CAMPA - 300 Ha. Planting (2024-25)
- State Plan – 250 Ha. Advance Work (2024-25)
- RFBDP – 1300 Ha. Advance work (2024-25)
- TOFR Seedling – 7.5 Lac
- NABARD Seedling – 3.0 Lac
- SFDA ToFR Seedling - 3.9997 Lac
- Tall Plant Seedling – 0.13 Lac
- MJSA - In Karauli forest 469 works (317 territorial,152 WL work) of CCT, Deep Cct, Talai and other SMC works

Challenges

- Water Scarcity, due to declining monsoon reliability and over-extraction of groundwater
- Human wildlife conflict
- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Drought

DISTRICT NAGAUR RAJASTHAN





Nagaur is a historic district in Rajasthan, India, referred to in the Mahabharata and renowned for its rich cultural heritage, architectural marvels, and vibrant traditions.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Nagaur District is situated between 260.25" & 270.40" North Latitude & 730.10" & 750.15" East Longitude. It is situated amidst seven districts namely Bikaner, Churu, Sikar, Jaipur, Ajmer, Pali, Jodhpur. Nagaur is the fifth largest district in Rajasthan with a vast terrain spreading over 17,718 sq. km. Its geographical spread is a good combine of plain, hills, sand mounds & as such it is a part of the great Indian Thar Desert.

Area:

The area of the district is 17,718 Sq. Kms.

Topography:

Nagaur features a diverse terrain that includes Plains and agricultural land (agricultural area), Sand dunes and desert areas (western and northern parts of Nagaur being part of the Thar Desert region, have sandy soil and dunes typical of arid desert landscapes), and Aravalli Hills, the eastern fringes of the district include low-lying hills and rocky outcrops of the Aravalli mountain range, which affect local drainage and microclimate. Bikaner and Churu in the north, east Sikar and Jaipur, Ajmer and shift south and west and is located in Jodhpur district. Three-fourth of the district is Thar.

The average elevation of the district is between 300 meters above sea level.



Climate:

District has dry climate, that's why summers are hotter and winters are colder. This is because of its three-fourth area is covered with Thar Desert and the region has lack of mountains and vegetation. The maximum temperature of the district is 49°C and minimum temperature is 0°C. In summer, there are dusty storms around the region. Monsoon enters here in the month of July and remains here till September. The average rainfall is 38.36 cm.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Nagaur district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

24240.28 ha

accounting for about

1.368%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category.

As per the 2023 data, the district had

1 ha

under the Reserved Forest,

80 ha

under the Protected Forest and

47 ha

under the deemed/unclassified forest categories.

Nagaur district does not have any designated National Parks. In Nagaur district two Conservation Reserves namely Gogelaw and Rotu Conservation Reserves have been declared under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Wildlife:

Nagaur lies in a semi-arid to arid region with dry conditions, so the natural vegetation mainly consists of drought-resistant and thorny species adapted to desert and scrubland ecosystems.

Prominent trees include Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*), the state tree of Rajasthan, *Acacia* spp such as *Acacia senegal* and *Acacia nilotica*, Babul (*Vachellia nilotica*, *Ziziphus* (Ber or Indian jujube), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*).

The Wild fauna include Chinkara (Indian Gazelle), Blackbuck, Desert Fox (*Vulpes vulpes pusilla*), Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Jackal, Nilgai (Blue bull), Flamingos, Demoiselle Crane, Desert Monitor Lizard and Spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastyx*) and different species of snakes and geckos adapted to sandy soils.

Water Bodies:

Sambhar Lake, a Saltwater lake (largest inland salt lake in India) is located spanning parts of Nagaur, Jaipur, and Ajmer districts and approximately 190 sq km in area.

Major Rivers:

The only river of the district is Luni river.

Sacred Groves:

The sacred groves in the Nagaur district have not been documented.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Nagaur had a population of

3,307,743

comprising

1,697,792

1,609,771

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

948 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 10% of the population resides in urban areas, while 90% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

187 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the backbone of Nagaur's economy, engaging a majority of the population. Major crops being Millets, Wheat, Barley,

Pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops. Irrigation is limited due to arid conditions, and relies on wells, tube wells, and some canal irrigation.

Animal husbandry is an important livelihood activity complementing agriculture. Cattle, buffalo, goats, and sheep are common. Nagaur is known for some indigenous breeds like the Nagauri cattle, valued for draught and milk.

Nagaur is famous for its high-quality marble, especially around Makrana (partly in Nagaur).

Sambhar Lake salt extraction is a major economic activity. Mostly small and medium scale industries related to mining, marble processing, agro-based industries, and handicrafts.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

62.8%,

with male literacy at 75% & female literacy at 49%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Nagaur, located between Jodhpur and Bikaner, is known for its rich cultural heritage,

historical forts, Sufi shrines, and unique fairs. The district offers a mix of heritage, religious, rural, and eco-tourism opportunities.

Nagaur Fort, is one of the finest examples of Rajput-Mughal architecture, and hosts the World Sufi Spirit Festival every year, attracting global artists.

Dargah of Khwaja Hamiduddin Nagauri, an important Major Sufi pilgrimage site, disciple of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti (Ajmer).

Nagaur Cattle Fair (Ramdeoji Cattle Fair), held annually (January–February), and is one of India's largest cattle fairs. It involves livestock trading, camel races, tug-of-war, traditional music, and crafts bazaar.

Ladnun (Ladnun or Ladnun Nagar), headquarters of Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, and has agglomeration of Jain Temples with intricate carvings.

Meera Bai Temple, Merta City, Birthplace of the famous Bhakti poet-saint Meera Bai, other attractions here being Charbhuj Temple and Meera Bai's Palace and Museum

Sambhar Salt Lake (partly in Nagaur), is the India's largest inland saltwater lake, and is also one of the Ramsar wetland site

Khimsar Fort and Village, located 42 km from Nagaur city, and now a heritage hotel managed by the Welcom Heritage Group.

Village tourism is being promoted in parts of the district for authentic experiences for Folk music, camel rides, handicrafts, rural cuisine, and visits to traditional havelis and farms.

Ongoing Interventions:

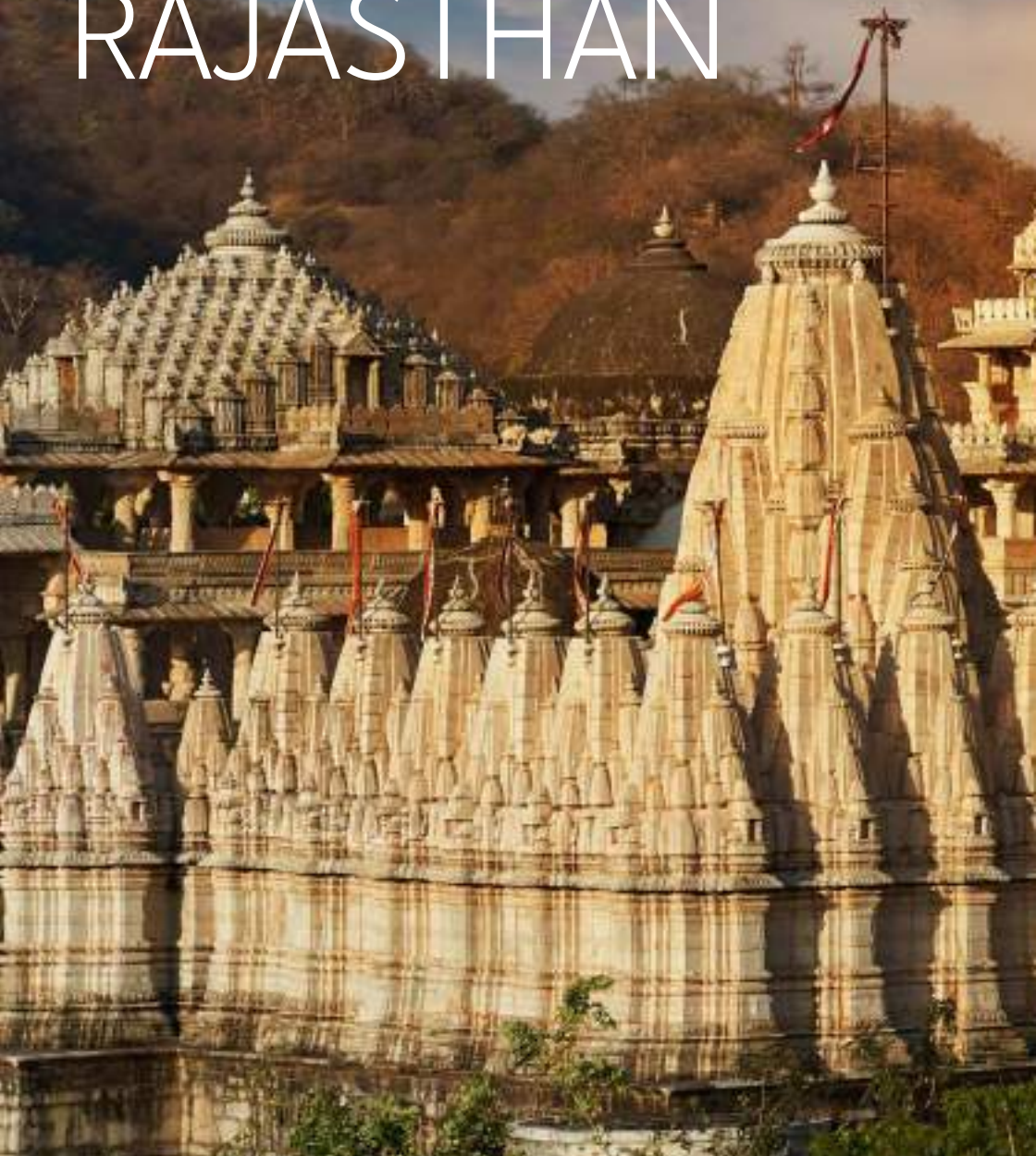
- CAMPA – NA
- State Plans – NA
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges:

- Water Scarcity, due to declining monsoon reliability and over-extraction of groundwater
- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Drought



DISTRICT PALI RAJASTHAN





Pali is a city in Rajasthan state of India. It is the administrative headquarters of Pali District and comes in the Marwar region. It is situated on the bank of the river Bandi and is 78 km south east of Jodhpur. It is known as "The Industrial City".

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

The Aravalli Range forms the eastern boundary of the district and towards southern boundary it ends at Bamnera village in Sumerpur Tehsil. A zone of foothills lays to the west, through which run the many tributaries of the Luni River. The western portion of the district includes the alluvial plain of the Luni. It is bounded by eight districts, Nagaur District to the north, Ajmer District to the northeast, Rajsamand District to the east, Udaipur District to the southeast, Sirohi District to the southwest, Jalore District and Barmer District to the west, and Jodhpur District to the northwest.

Area:

The area of the district is 12,387 Sq. Kms.

Topography:

The area of the district may be called sub-mountainous and has undulated plains with scattered hills here and there. The southeast of the district is traversed by the Aravalli range. The highest peak of these hills is about 1,099 metres. The general elevation in the plain varies from 180 meters to 500 meters and the slope is from east to westerly direction. Pali town is located about 212 meters high above the sea level. The soil of the district is mostly sandy loam and the water table, in general, is within 15 meters from the ground level.



Climate:

District has dry climate, that's why summer are hotter and winter are colder. This is because of its three-fourth area is covered with Thar Desert and the region has lack of mountains and vegetation. The maximum temperature of the district is 49°C and minimum temperature is 0°C. In summer, there are dusty storms around the region. Monsoon enters here in the month of July and remains here till September. The average rainfall is 38.36 cm.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Pali Division in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

346.66 sq. kms

accounting for about

2.80%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category.

As per the 2021 data, the district had

200.00 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

141.93 sq.km

under the Protected Forest and

4.72 sq.km

under the deemed/unclassified forest categories.

No National Parks are currently located within Pali district boundaries. Jawai Bandh Leopard Conservation Reserve is the only sanctuary in the district, which is also the only Jawai Bandh Leopard Conservation Reserve. Jawai Bandh Conservation Reserve is located in Sumer tehsil of Pali district, about 130 kilometres south of Jodhpur. Jawai Bandh Conservation Reserve

is famous for Leopards. The Jawai leopards resides in a stunning landscape surrounded by granite rocks and the Jawai dam—the biggest dam in western Rajasthan. Apart from leopards, the forest area is also home to sloth bears, wolf, chinkara and crocodiles. As per the news, the area is habitat to more than 200 crocodiles and aquatic life amid the Thar desert. The forests around the dam are home to many migratory birds during winter season.

Wildlife:

Pali district, situated in the semi-arid region of Rajasthan, hosts a diverse range of wild flora and fauna adapted to its dry and rocky landscape. The vegetation primarily consists of thorny scrub forests, dry deciduous patches, and grasslands dominated by hardy species like khejri, babul, and acacia trees, which provide crucial shelter and food for the wildlife.

The district is renowned for its leopard population, especially around the Jawai Dam area, where these majestic cats coexist with herbivores such as nilgai and chinkara. The fauna also includes species like hyenas, jackals, Indian foxes, and a variety of reptiles and birds, including migratory waterfowl attracted by local water bodies.

Water Bodies:

There is no lake or natural spring in the district. There are a number of big and small tanks constructed for irrigation purposes. Of these, the

Jawai dam in Bali tehsil has the largest capacity while the smallest tank is Walar. Besides these tanks, there are five dams also in the district. They are Jawai Raipur Luni, Hemawas, Kharda and Biratiya Khurd dams which are used basically for irrigational purposes.

Major Rivers:

There is no perennial river in the district. Four tributaries of River Luni viz; Sukri, Lilri, Bandi and Jawai flow in the district. Besides, there are a number of other seasonal rivulets and streams which traverse through the district.

Sacred Groves:

Sacred groves, locally known as orans, are vital ecological and cultural treasures in Pali district, Rajasthan.

These community-managed forests are deeply rooted in local traditions and are primarily associated with temples, water sources, and ancestral deities.

In Pali, orans are often linked to folk deities like Khetlaji, Jaleri Maa, and Khodiyaar Maa, and are typically found near villages or temples. The Ashapura Mata Temple in Nadol and the Sonana Khetlaji Temple are notable examples where sacred groves play a significant role in local spirituality and conservation.

These groves are protected by community customs, with strict taboos against tree felling and hunting, ensuring the preservation of biodiversity.

DEMOGRAPHICS ECONOMY

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Pali had a population of

1,605,543

comprising

1,697,792

1,609,771

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

986 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 27.24% of the population resides in urban areas, while 72.76% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

164 persons per sq.km.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pali's economy, engaging a majority of the population. Major crops being Millets, Moong, Jowar, Sesame, Guar, Wheat, Barley, Pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops. Irrigation is limited due to arid conditions, and relies on wells and tube wells.

Pali is industrialized relative to other districts in the Marwar region and is known for textile, chemical, and mineral-based industries. Pali has been famous for its textile industries and is known as the textile hub of Rajasthan. Cotton and Synthetic clothes, and yarn are exported to other states of India at a very cheap price. Some new industries have also been developed such as those of Bangles, Marble cutting, marble finishing, etc. There is a cotton mill named Maharaja Shree Umaid Mills which is the biggest cotton mill of Rajasthan, employing nearly 3000 workers.

The district has reserves of limestone. Pali processes guar seeds into guar gum for export. The small-scale and handicraft units includes wood carving, leather works, and traditional Rajasthani crafts. The major industrial areas are Mandia Road Industrial Area (Pali City), Sojat Industrial Area and Sumerpur Industrial Zone

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

62.8%,

with male literacy at 75% & female literacy at 49%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Pali district in Rajasthan offers a rich tapestry of historical, spiritual, and natural attractions. Here's a curated guide to some of the most notable places to explore:

Historical & Cultural Landmarks

Ranakpur Jain Temples, renowned for their intricate marble architecture, these 15th-century temples are dedicated to Lord Adinath. The complex boasts 1,444 uniquely carved pillars, each distinct in design.

Kumbhalgarh Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this formidable 15th-century fort is famed for its massive walls stretching over 36 kilometers, making it one of the longest in the world. It also holds historical significance as the birthplace of Maharana Pratap.

Religious & Spiritual Sites

Nimbo Ka Nath Mahadev Temple, located between Falna and Sanderao, this temple is believed to be the site where Kunti, mother of the Pandavas, worshipped Lord Shiva during their exile. The temple is adorned with intricate carvings and holds significant mythological importance.

Parshuram Mahadev Temple, is a cave temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is associated with Parshuram, the sixth avatar of Lord Vishnu. The site features naturally formed figures and perennial water kunds, attracting thousands of pilgrims annually.

Ashapura Mata Temple, Nadol, is dedicated to Ashapura Mata, an incarnation of Shakambhari Devi, and serves as the kuldevi (clan deity) for the Chauhan Rajput community. The temple is especially vibrant during the Navratri festivals.

Muchhal Mahavir Temple, is situated in Ghanerao, and is a part of the "Gorwad Panch Tirth" and is known for its unique legend involving a mustachioed idol of Mahavir.

Sai Dham, Rani is a replica of the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, and features a 5.5-foot white marble idol of Sai Baba. The temple is adorned with silver ornaments and includes an assembly hall accommodating around 300 devotees.

Natural Attractions & Wildlife

Jawai Dam, is the largest dam in western Rajasthan. Beyond its utility, the dam area is a picturesque spot, attracting migratory birds and offering serene views.

Lakhotia Garden, is surrounded by the Lakhotia Pond, giving it a peninsula-like appearance. The

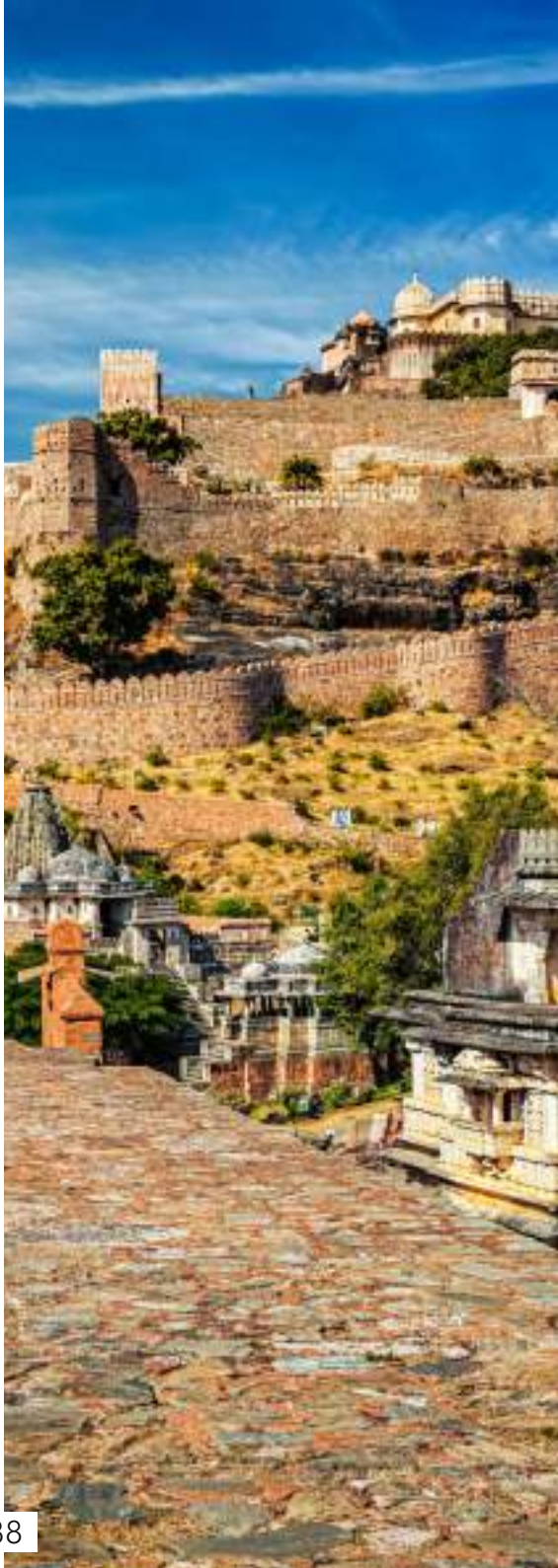
garden features lush greenery, walking paths, and a central Neelkanth Mahadev Temple.

Ongoing Interventions

- CAMPA – 13.44 ha (2024-25)
- State Plans – 650 ha (2024-25)
- Lav Kush Vatika - 2 at Pali and Desuri
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges


- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages.
- Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture and industry.
- Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.





DISTRICT PRATAPGARH RAJASTHAN





On 26th January 2008, Pratapgarh got the pride of being 33rd district shown on the map of Rajasthan. It is created by the areas taken from Udaipur, Banswara and Chittorgarh districts. It is known for its tribal culture, natural beauty, and unique art forms. Covered with natural beauty and lifestyle of Vagad, Mewad and Malwa this new district is famous by the name of KANTHAL. Tribal dominated population is the rich Ganga-Jamuna culture of this district.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Pratapgarh is located at 24.03° N and 74.78° E with an average elevation of 491 meters (1610 feet above mean sea level). It is said to be the second highest place in Rajasthan after Mount Abu. Because of its unique location on the junction of the Aravali mountain ranges and the Malwa Plateau, it carries the geological characteristics of both. The district borders with Banswara, Dungarpur, Udaipur, and the state of Madhya Pradesh

Area:

The area of the district is 4117.36 sq.kms.

Topography:

Pratapgarh district is characterized by a unique and diverse topography, as it lies at the confluence of the Aravalli hill ranges and the Malwa Plateau. This geographical intersection gives rise to an undulating landscape marked by gentle hills, shallow valleys, and forested regions. The terrain is interspersed with seasonal rivers and streams, contributing to its moderate agricultural potential. The presence of red and black soils supports cultivation, while the forest cover, particularly in areas like the Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary, adds to the ecological

richness of the region. The district's elevation ranges between 500 to 600 meters above sea level, providing a relatively cooler climate compared to the arid regions of western Rajasthan.

Climate:

District has dry climate, that's why summer are hotter and winter are colder. This is because of its three-fourth area is covered with Thar Desert and the region has lack of mountains and vegetation. The maximum temperature of the district is 49°C and minimum temperature is 0°C. In summer, there are dusty storms around the region. Monsoon enters here in the month of July and remains here till September. The average rainfall is 38.36 cm.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

Pratapgarh lies in a transitional zone between the Aravalli ranges, Vindhyan plateau, and Malwa region, giving it rich and diverse vegetation. The forests are classified as Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests.

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

1666.92 sq. kms

accounting for about

37.45%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category.

As per the 2021 data, the district had

703 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

963 sq.km

under the Protected Forest

No National Parks and Conservation Reserves are currently located within Pratapgarh district boundaries. The district is also home to the Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary, a significant

protected area covering approximately 422.95 sq km. This sanctuary is notable for its rich biodiversity and dense forests, contributing substantially to the district's forest cover. The Sanctuary displays a unique confluence of the Aravalli ranges, Vindhyachal Hills, and Malwa Plateau, and is dominated by high-value teak forests, along with species like salar, tendu, neem, and bamboo. The Sanctuary is home to Indian leopards, striped hyenas, sloth bears, nilgai, four-horned antelope, and over 130 bird species, including the Indian darter and white scavenger vulture. The area surrounding Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary has been declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone, and covers approximately 172.45 sq km, encompassing 58 villages in Pratapgarh and Chittorgarh districts

Wildlife:

Pratapgarh district, situated in the semi-arid region of Rajasthan, hosts a diverse range of wild flora and fauna adapted to its dry and rocky landscape. The vegetation primarily consists of thorny scrub forests, dry deciduous patches, and grasslands dominated by hardy species like teak, salar, tendu, Mahua, neem, Bamboo, Arjun and Amla.

Water Bodies:

Pratapgarh District, Rajasthan features several natural and man-made water bodies, crucial for irrigation, drinking water, and maintaining ecological balance,

and include Jakham Dam, Mahi river and Sitamata River. Pratapgarh district has numerous traditional ponds and check dams, especially in and around tribal villages and also within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Sita Mata Sanctuary and are used for rainwater harvesting and community-level irrigation. Notable examples include Kunda Talab, Padawa Talab and Panchlyha Pond

Major Rivers:

Jakham and Sitamata rivers

Sacred Groves:

Locally known as “Devvan”, “Devra”, “Mataji ka Van”, or “Bhutdevi Van”, these groves are often marked by Stone or wooden idols, Flags or totems, No tree-felling zones and Ritual platforms or altars. Some well-known sacred groves or grove clusters in and around Pratapgarh include Devra near Sita Mata Sanctuary, Bhilsuri Mata Groves: and Devra Hills region

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Pratapgarh had a population of

867,848

comprising

437,744 males

430,104 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

983 females for every
1,000

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 8.27% of the population resides in urban areas, while 91.73% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

195 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the backbone of Pratapgarh's economy, engaging the majority of the population, especially in rural areas. The

district's geography, climate, and forest cover influence agricultural patterns. The important crops include Bajra (pearl millet), maize, moong (green gram), urad (black gram), and cotton and Wheat, barley, gram (chickpeas), and mustard

Major irrigation source is the Jakham Dam on the Jakham River.

Pratapgarh's industrial base is relatively underdeveloped but has key industries including Small Scale and Cottage Industries (tribal crafts and forest products, handloom), Agro-based industries with focus on food processing and forest-based industries using timber, bamboo, lac, and medicinal plants

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

55.97%

with male literacy at 69.50% & female literacy at 42.35%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary, is the crown jewel of Pratapgarh's eco-tourism, covering about 422 sq km of dense forests and hills It is famous for rich biodiversity, including leopards, sloth bears,

and over 130 bird species and is famous for scenic trekking trails, waterfalls (like Sita Mata Falls), and tribal villages.

Jakham Dam, is a large irrigation dam on the Jakham River, and is a popular local picnic and nature spot as it provides scenic views and attracts migratory birds during winters.

Chhoti Sadri, known for temples and religious tourism and a gateway to many tribal cultural experiences.

Devra Sacred Groves, sacred groves preserved by local tribal communities, and a unique spot for experiencing traditional forest conservation tied to spirituality.

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – 636.7337 hectares annually (1,73,217 Planting trees)

State Plans – 1300 Ha. (3,95,000 Planting trees)

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges:

Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages

Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture & industry.

Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.



DISTRICT RAJSAMAND RAJASTHAN





Rajsamand district, located in the southern part of Rajasthan, India, is renowned for its historical significance, cultural heritage, and natural beauty. Established on April 10, 1991, after being carved out from Udaipur district, Rajsamand is named after the picturesque Rajsamand Lake, built by Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar in the 17th century. Rajsamand is very well known for its marble production as the largest producing district as well as the largest single unit in the whole country. Rajsamand also saw the vicissitudes of the freedom struggle between Tatya Tope and the British troops at 'Rakamgarh Ka Chhpar' in 1857. Rajsamand is much rich district regarding history, religion, culture and mining industries. Among famous places of tourist interest Kumbhalgarh - the birth place of Maharana Pratap, Haldighati the famous battlefield, Shrinathji the chief deity of Vaishnav religion, Dwarikadheesh, Charbhuj and many Shiv temples.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Rajsamand forms part of the Part of the Mewar region in southern Rajasthan and is situated 67 km north of Udaipur and 352 km south of State Capital Jaipur on NH 8. Rajsamand is located between latitudes 24° 46' to 26° 01' N and Longitudes 73° 28' to 74° 18' E. Rajsamand district lies in the watershed of the Banas River and its tributaries. The district is bordered by Ajmer in the north, Pali in the west, Udaipur in the south, and Bhilwara in the east.

Area:

The area of the district is 4550.93 sq.kms.

Topography:

ajsamand's topography is predominantly hilly and rugged, falling under the Aravalli hill ranges — one of the oldest mountain systems in the world. The district is surrounded by the Aravali

ranges from north to east. The terrain comprises of Aravalli Hills, which bisects the district creating undulating terrain with numerous hillocks, ridges, and narrow valleys. The elevation ranges from 250 meters to 1,100 meters above sea level, Plains and Valleys, which are interspersed between the hills are small valleys and relatively flat plains, primarily in the eastern and central parts of the district and are often used for agriculture due to deeper and more fertile soils.

It has an average elevation of 547 meters.

● Climate:

The climate of the district is moderate without significant seasonal variations December & January the coldest month while May and June are the hottest month. The minimum & maximum Temperature recorded at Rajsamand 7°C and 45°C respectively. The mean temperature is 25°C. The average rainfall at the district headquarter is 52.4 cm.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

Rajsamand lies in a transitional zone between the Aravalli ranges, Vindhyan plateau, and Malwa region, giving it rich and diverse vegetation. The forests are classified as Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests.

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Rajsamand district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

401.66 sq. kms

accounting for about

8.81%

of its total geographical area. The majority of district's forest area falls under the protected forest category.

As per the Rajasthan Forest Department's official data, the district had

277.44 sq.km

under the Reserved Forest,

120.79 sq.km

under the Protected Forest and Rajsamand district does not contain any National Parks and Conservation Reserves. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, encompassing the Aravalli Range, featuring rugged hills, valleys, and forests and the Todgarh-Raoli

Wildlife:

Rajsamand lies in the semi-arid zone with areas of dry deciduous forests, especially in the Aravalli ranges. Vegetation varies with altitude, rainfall, and soil types, and prominently include Dhok, Salar, Khair, Khejri, Babool and neem. The Sanctuaries are haven for leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, wolves, wild boars, chinkaras, nilgais, reptiles, amphibians and insects and over 200 bird species.

Water Bodies:

Rajsamand district in Rajasthan has a rich history of traditional water management systems, along with natural and man-made water bodies. Major natural and artificial lakes include Rajsamand Lake, Kelwa Lake Nandsamand Lake, and Devgarh lake. Stepwells (Baoris) and tanks (Talabs) are historically significant in towns like Nathdwara, Kumbhalgarh, and Amet. Many villages still use anicuts, kunds, and check dams for water harvesting.

Major Rivers:

he district lies in the catchment of the Banas River and part of the larger Chambal–Yamuna–Ganga drainage system. The rivers here are seasonal, with flow primarily during the monsoon, and include Banas, Gomti, Kothari and Chandrabhaga. These rivers are seasonal and primarily flow during the monsoon (June to September).

Numerous community-preserved sacred groves are present in the district and include Devbani and Bhil Sacred Forests, maintained by tribal groups like the Bhil and Garasia communities and associated with village deities (Gram Devta) or nature spirits. Groves are also located in the surrounding areas of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary contain sacred groves managed by Rajput, tribal, and pastoralist communities, and many are located near shrines or temples such as Khedbrahma Dev, Mamaji temples, Bheruji and Mataji shrines

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Rajsamand had a population of

1,156,597

comprising

581,339 males

575,258 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

990 females for every

1,000 males



Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 15.89% of the population resides in urban areas, while 84.11% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

248 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Rajsamand's economy is diversified, with significant contributions from agriculture, mining, and tourism. The district is one of India's prime suppliers of marble, granite, and other valuable stones. Agricultural activities include the cultivation of crops like wheat, maize, and pulses. The district also has a growing marble industry, known for its production of high-quality marble.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

63.24%,

with male literacy at 78.42% & female literacy at 47.95%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Rajsamand district in Rajasthan is renowned for its rich tapestry of historical landmarks, spiritual centers, and natural beauty. From majestic forts to serene lakes, the district offers a plethora of attractions-

Kumbhalgarh Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kumbhalgarh Fort is famed for its massive walls stretching over 36 kilometers, earning it the moniker "The Great Wall of India." It also marks the birthplace of Maharana Pratap.

Haldighati, This mountain pass is historically significant as the site of the 1576 battle between Maharana Pratap and the Mughal army. The area is named for its turmeric-colored soil and houses the Chetak Smarak, a memorial to Maharana Pratap's loyal horse.

Rajsamand Lake, this expansive lake is not only a scenic spot but also features the Raj Prashasti, the world's longest Sanskrit stone inscription.

Shrinathji Temple, Nathdwara, it is a major pilgrimage site, this temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is a significant center for the Pushtimarg sect. The town of Nathdwara is often

referred to as the "Gateway to Shrinathji." Dwarkadhish Temple, Kankroli, is situated on the southern bank of Rajsamand Lake, and is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is one of the seven prominent temples of the Pushtimarg sect.

Modern Marvels:

Vishwas Swaroopam (Statue of Belief), located in Nathdwara, this towering statue of Lord Shiva stands at 369 feet, making it one of the tallest Shiva statues globally. The site includes landscaped gardens, a museum, and viewing galleries.

Ongoing Interventions:

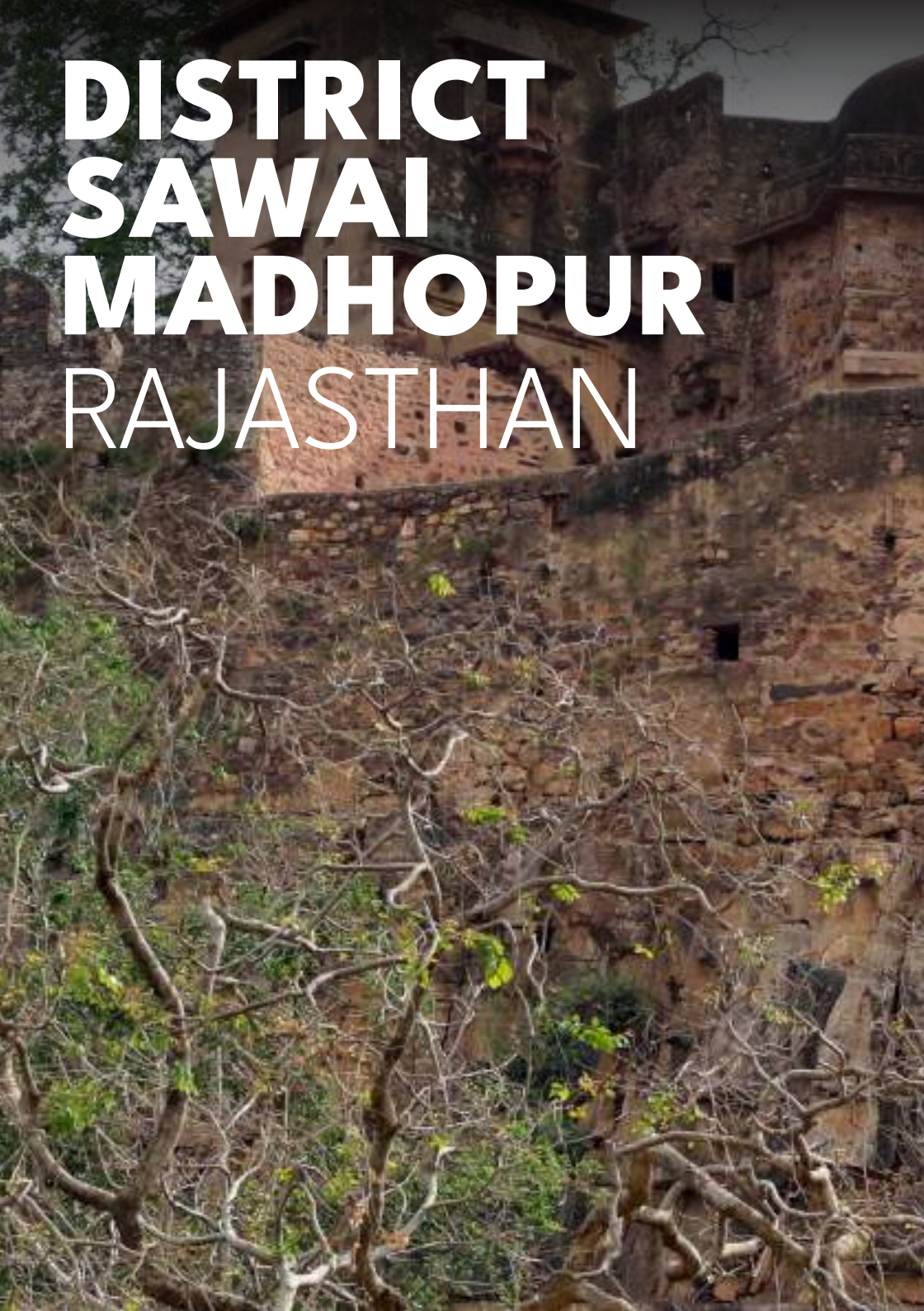
- CAMPA –NA
- State Plans – NA
- Nagar Van Yojana – 20 ha
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges:

- Land Degradation & Soil Erosion
- Deforestation
- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages.
- Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture and industry.
- Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.
- Forest Fires



DISTRICT SAWAI MADHOPUR RAJASTHAN





Sawai Madhopur is a district located in the southeastern part of Rajasthan, India. It is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, historical landmarks, and significant wildlife sanctuaries.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Sawai Madhopur is located in the southeastern part of Rajasthan, around 121 km southeast of Jaipur, the state capital. The district forms a natural junction between the Aravalli and Vindhya mountain ranges. It shares its boundaries with Karauli to the north, Dausa to the west, and Madhya Pradesh to the southeast.

This geographical positioning makes Sawai Madhopur a crucial link between Rajasthan and the central Indian regions, with a mix of rugged hills, fertile plains, and a blend of semi-arid and humid climates.

Area:

Sawai Madhopur spans an area of about 5,378 square kilometers, which makes it a moderately large district in terms of land area in Rajasthan. The topography is diverse, with rolling sandstone ridges and seasonal streams, which play a significant role in the district's ecosystem and hydrology.

Topography:

The district is characterized by undulating land with varying elevation ranging from 200 to 500 meters above sea level. The Vindhya Ranges are to the southeast, whereas the Aravalli hills stretch from the north to the west, contributing to a distinct geographical landscape. The area is rich in rocky outcrops, sandstone ridges, and shallow depressions that act as water retention zones.

Climate:

Sawai Madhopur experiences a semi-arid climate typical of Rajasthan. The district has hot summers where temperatures can soar up to 47°C, especially in the months of May and June. Winters, however, are considerably cooler, with temperatures falling to as low as 2°C in December and January.

The monsoon season is between June to September, during which the district receives 800-900 mm of rainfall annually. This rainfall is essential for agricultural activities but also causes sporadic flooding due to erratic rainfall distribution.

58.67 sq.kms

is protected forest, rest of area is unclassed forest. District has one National Park which is also a tiger project area i.e. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (approximate area in Sawai Madhopur district 621 km²). The forests in the district are primarily dry deciduous forests, dominated by species such as Acacia, Babul, Khejri, and Ber trees, which are typical of the semi-arid climate. The forests of Sawai Madhopur are home to several flora and fauna species that are adapted to the harsh climate.

Wildlife:

Sawai Madhopur is internationally recognized for its wildlife, especially its Bengal tiger population in the Ranthambore National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Apart from tigers, the area is home to other significant species like the Indian Leopard, Sloth Bear, and various species of deer and antelope such as the Chital and Nilgai. The district also supports a diverse avian population, with over 300 bird species inhabiting its wetlands and forests. Key species include Eagles, Vultures, Cranes, and Herons.

Water Bodies:

Several seasonal rivers, waterholes, and ponds dot the district. Lakes like Padam Talab inside the Ranthambore National Park provide vital water sources to the wildlife and maintain the ecological balance. Additionally, the Banas River, which flows through the district, is an important

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

The forest cover in Sawai Madhopur as per ISFR 2023 report is approximately

517.42 sq.kms

Area under territorial division is

218.83 sq.kms

out of which

142.62 sq.kms

is reserve forest,

water source. Due to its semi-arid nature, water conservation has been a crucial focus in recent years, especially in the context of the growing population and agricultural dependence.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

As per the 2011 Census, Sawai Madhopur had a total population of approximately

1,335,551

people. The population is distributed between urban and rural areas, with approximately 80% residing in rural areas. The population growth rate has been steady, with more people migrating to the district's urban centers for employment and educational opportunities.

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

894 females for every
1,000 males.

Urban vs. Rural:

About 19.95% of the population lives in urban areas, primarily in the Sawai Madhopur city. The urban-rural divide is marked, with rural areas having limited access to healthcare, education, and other essential services.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the backbone of the district's economy. The fertile plains in the district allow for the cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, maize, mustard, gram, pulses, and cotton. Sugarcane is also cultivated in certain pockets, particularly in irrigated areas. The reliance on rain-fed agriculture makes the region vulnerable to droughts and inconsistent monsoon rains.

The industrial base in Sawai Madhopur is growing but remains underdeveloped compared to other parts of Rajasthan. Key industries include agro-based industries, textiles, handicrafts, wood-based furniture, and chemical units. The industrial cluster around Sawai Madhopur city hosts small to medium-sized industries, including some engineering units. Ranthambore Tourism also significantly contributes to the local economy, as it attracts thousands of national and international tourists every year.

As per the 2020-21 data, the per capita income in Sawai Madhopur was ₹95,371, which is somewhat lower than the state average. This is indicative of the rural-urban economic divide, as well as the limited industrial growth.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

66.19%

Male literacy is much higher at 81.51%, while female literacy lags significantly behind at 47.51%. This gender gap is attributed to cultural and socio-economic factors that limit women's access to formal education, especially in remote areas. The district has prioritized improving girl's education, though many rural areas still face obstacles such as long distances to schools and cultural barriers.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Ranthambore National Park: One of the largest and most famous national parks in India, Ranthambore is renowned for its Bengal tiger population. The park spans 392 km² and is home to other wildlife, such as Indian leopards, wild boars, sloth bears, and numerous species of birds. It is a hotspot for ecotourism, drawing tourists from across the world for wildlife safaris, birdwatching, and photography.

Ranthambore Fort: Situated within the park, the Ranthambore Fort was built in the 10th century and offers panoramic views of the surrounding forest. It is a significant historical site and one of Rajasthan's most famous forts,

having witnessed numerous battles and invasions over the centuries.

Shilpgram: This is a craft village located near Ramsinghpura that showcases the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan through traditional arts and crafts from across India. Visitors can experience handicrafts, weaving, and art exhibitions, offering a glimpse into the state's vibrant culture.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – 250 ha. In 2022
- State Plans – About 975 ha in 2022,
- Luvkus Vatika State Plan Yojana – No. 2 2022-23 & 2023-24
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

Challenges:

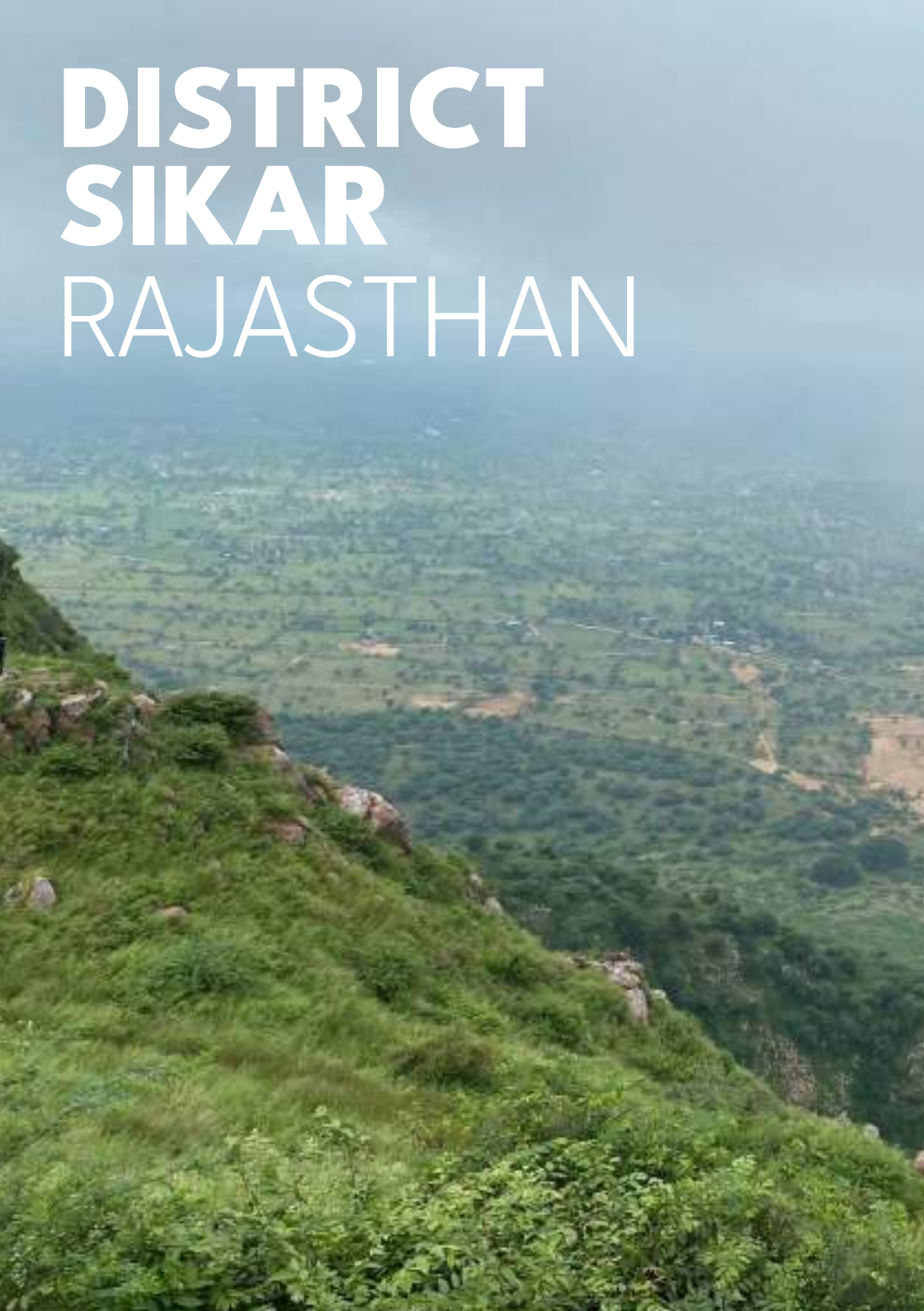
- **Water Scarcity:** Despite having some significant water bodies, the district faces severe challenges regarding water management, primarily because of over-reliance on groundwater and erratic monsoon patterns. The agriculture sector is highly susceptible to drought conditions.


Human-Wildlife Conflict: With Ranthambore National Park and other sanctuaries, human-wildlife conflicts are frequent, especially when animals such as tigers or leopards venture into surrounding villages, often leading to crop damage, livestock loss, and occasional human casualties.

Infrastructure Development: While urban areas like Sawai Madhopur city have basic amenities, rural parts still struggle with poor road connectivity, lack of healthcare facilities, and low quality of education, contributing to regional disparity.



DISTRICT SIKAR RAJASTHAN





Sikar, is one of the historical cities, which is located in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan State in India. It follows the magnificent art, culture and Padharo Mhare Desh tradition of Rajasthan. Sikar is a very fascinating and attractive spot for the tourist. The fresco Paintings on the ancient havelies, temples and forts captivate the tourist from across the globe. Sikar was the dynasty of royal Shekhawat kings.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

The Sikar district is located in the north-eastern part of the state of Rajasthan between 27°07' to 28°12' N and 74°41' to 76°05' E. It is bounded by Jhunjhunu district to the north, by Churu district to the north-east, by Nagaur district to the south-west and by Jaipur district to the south-east. It also touches Mahendragarh district of Haryana at its north-east corner.

Area:

The area of the district is 7732 sq.kms

Topography:

Sikar district presents a varied topography, characterized predominantly by semi-arid plains interspersed with low hill ranges and sand dunes. The southeastern part of the district is influenced by the Aravalli hill system, where small rocky hills like Harsh Parvat rise above the surrounding terrain. The central and western parts are mostly flat or gently undulating, dominated by sandy soils and occasional sand ridges, particularly toward Churu. This mix of terrain supports both limited agriculture and pastoral activities, although soil fertility varies widely across the district.

It has an average elevation of 432 meters.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Sikar district in Rajasthan encompasses a total forest area of approximately

218.55 sq. kms

accounting for about

2.82%

of its total geographical area.

As per the Rajasthan Forest Department's official data, the district had

992 ha

Under the Reserved Forest,

62125.95 ha

Under the Protected Forest and

876.5715 ha

under unclassified forests.

Sikar does not have any officially designated National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries. There are 3 officially designated Conservation Reserves in the district namely Beed Fatehpur Conservation Reserve, Sakhambhari Conservation Reserve and Baleshwar Conservation Reserve. There are no officially notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) specifically within Sikar district.

Wildlife:

Sikar district, situated in the semi-arid region of Rajasthan, hosts a unique assemblage of flora and fauna adapted to its dry climate and scrubland ecosystem. The natural vegetation predominantly consists of thorny shrubs and drought-resistant trees such as Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*), Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), and *Acacia senegal*, which provide critical habitat and forage for local wildlife. Fauna in the district includes species typical of arid zones, such as Indian gazelle (*Chinkara*), desert fox, mongoose, and various reptiles including monitor lizards and snakes. Birdlife is also notable, with species like peafowl, partridges, and various migratory birds frequenting the region. Though Sikar lacks large protected wildlife areas, the presence of conservation reserves such as Beed Fatehpur helps safeguard this biodiversity and maintain ecological balance in the district.

Water Bodies:

Water conservation is achieved through traditional structures like johads, talabs (ponds), and small check dams, which serve both irrigation and groundwater recharge purposes. Due to the scarcity of surface water, groundwater remains the primary source for drinking and agricultural use, although it is depleting at an unsustainable rate.

Major Rivers:

Sikar district falls within an inland drainage basin and does not have any perennial rivers. Most natural drainage is carried through seasonal nallahs and ephemeral streams that remain dry for much of the year. There are no major rivers, but a few small rivulets like the Mendha and Krishnawati carry water during the monsoon.

Sacred Groves:

There are 4 sacred groves in the region- Jeenmata ka Oran, Baleshwar Oran, Ganeshwar Oran and Dudharji involving 760 hectares.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Sikar had a population of

2,677,333

comprising

1,374,241 males

1,303,092 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

947 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 20% of the population resides in urban areas, while 80% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

346 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Sikar district's economy is primarily agrarian, with agriculture forming the backbone of livelihoods for the majority of its population. The district benefits from fertile alluvial soils and a semi-arid climate, supporting the cultivation of crops such as bajra (pearl millet), wheat, mustard, gram, and barley. Farmers here rely largely on monsoon rains, though irrigation facilities through canals and tube wells have improved productivity.

Apart from agriculture, animal husbandry—especially dairy farming—is an important supplementary source of income.

On the industrial front, Sikar is developing as a regional hub with small and medium-scale industries, including textile manufacturing, agro-processing units, and marble polishing. The district's proximity to Jaipur and its connectivity via road and rail have further encouraged industrial growth and trade.

Additionally, the handicraft sector, especially woollen textiles and embroidery, contributes to the local economy, blending traditional skills with market demand. Overall, Sikar's economy is a mix of traditional agriculture and gradually expanding industrial and artisanal activities.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

71.91%

with male literacy at 85.11%
and female literacy at 58.23%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Sikar district, located in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, is a vibrant blend of heritage, art, and rural charm. Often referred to as the "Open Art Gallery of Rajasthan", Sikar and the surrounding areas are famed for their exquisitely painted havelis, frescoes, and historical temples. The region attracts visitors interested in Rajasthani architecture, traditional culture, and offbeat experiences.

Major Places of Interest

Harshnath Temple, Located on the Aravalli hills near Sikar city it is a 10th-century Shiva temple known for its intricate carvings and panoramic views.

Khatu Shyam Ji Temple, located in Khatushyamji town, this temple is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Rajasthan devoted to Lord Krishna.

Jeen Mata Temple, dedicated to Goddess Jeen Mata, located in the Aravalli hills, and is a popular pilgrimage site, especially during the Navratri festival, surrounded by scenic hills and natural beauty.

Havelis of Ramgarh, Fatehpur & Lachhmangarh, these towns feature ornately painted havelis adorned with Shekhawati frescoes.

Poddar Haveli, Sethani Ka Johra, and Jagannath Singhania Haveli are notable examples.

Ganeshwar, an ancient site near Neem Ka Thana, known for its hot sulfur springs and archaeological remains from the Pre-Harappan era.

Local Crafts and Bazaars

Sikar's markets are known for Rajasthani textiles, handicrafts, jewelry, and lac bangles.

Visitors can explore local fairs and weekly markets showcasing Shekhawati's rural culture.

Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – 2914.46 ha.
- State Plans – 8145 ha.
- Nagar Van Yojana – 0
- Under Externally Aided Project – 0


Challenges:

- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion
- Deforestation
- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages.
- Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture and industry.
- Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.
- Loss of Biodiversity



DISTRICT SIROHI RAJASTHAN





Sirohi city is one of the known name in the southern Rajasthan. Sirohi is an administrative headquarters of Sirohi district which covers six tehsils- Abu Road, Sheoganj, Reodar, Pindwara, Deldar and Sirohi itself. City has evolved its name from “Siranwa” hills on the western slope where it is situated. The name Sirohi was derived from head (Sir) of the desert (Rohi), according to Colonel Tod, who wrote about it in his book “Travels in Western India”. Another story about the origin of its name is that it derived from “Sword”. Deora Chauhans, the ruler of Sirohi state were popularly known for their bravery and famous swords.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Sirohi district is situated in the south-west part of Rajasthan between the parallel of 24°20' and 25°17' North Latitude and 72°16' and 73°10' East Longitude. It is bounded by district Pali in the north-east, district Udaipur in the east, Jalore in the west and Banaskantha district of Gujarat in the south. The total geographical area of the district is 5136 sq. Km., which covers about 1.52 percent of the total area of Rajasthan.

Area:

The area of the district is 5136 sq.kms.

Topography:

Sirohi district is characterized by a diverse terrain, with the Aravalli Range traversing it from northeast to southwest. This range divides the district into two distinct regions- Southeast Region: Dominated by rugged hills and forested areas, including the renowned Mount Abu, the highest peak in Rajasthan, and Northwest Region: Comprising arid plains and rocky outcrops, this area lies in the rain shadow of the Aravallis,

resulting in a drier climate. The south and south-east part of the district, which lies between Mount Abu and the main spine of the Aravallis, is mountainous and rugged, and is drained by the West Banas River.

Climate:

The district experiences a semi-arid climate, with significant variations due to its topography, from Mount Abu, that receives higher rainfall, averaging around 1,600 mm annually, supporting lush vegetation to plains which have a lower precipitation, with some areas receiving less than 300 mm annually. Temperatures can soar up to 42°C in summers and drop to 6°C in winters.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

The dry deciduous forest is common in this part of the district, and the higher elevations of Mount Abu are covered in conifer forests.

As per the latest information available, Sirohi district in Rajasthan encompasses a total

1315.15 sq.kms

accounting for about

25.60 %

of its total geographical area.

As per the Rajasthan Forest Department's official data, the district had

510.03 sq.kms

Under the Reserved Forest,

766.56 sq.kms

Under the Protected Forest and

39.47 sq.kms

under unclassed forests.

There is no national park currently located within Sirohi district. Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Sirohi district with an area 328 sq.kms.

The ESZ around Mount Abu WLS was notified in 2017, covering an area of 353.93 km², with a buffer of up to 10 km from the sanctuary boundary. There are 2 officially designated Conservation Reserves in the district namely Sundhamata Conservation Reserve and Wadakheda Conservation Reserve.

Wildlife:

Sirohi's diverse habitats support a rich array of flora and fauna

Flora: The district's vegetation ranges from thorny shrubs in the plains to dry deciduous forests in the hills. Common species include Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*), Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*).

Fauna: Wildlife includes sloth bears, leopards, hyenas, foxes, and various species of deer and reptiles. The avian population is diverse, with numerous resident and migratory birds.

The Mount Abu region, due to its unique microclimate, hosts species not commonly found in the arid zones of Rajasthan.

Water Bodies:

While there are no major natural lakes in Sirohi, there are numerous man-made ponds and check dams, particularly in and around Mount Abu, having small water bodies such as Nakki Lake, a scenic artificial lake that also supports tourism.

Rural tanks (talabs): Constructed for rainwater harvesting and village irrigation, often revitalized under schemes like MGNREGA and Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Major dams/check dams include Banas, Oda, Danta, Chandela, Girwar, Niboda, Padeev, Karodi, Dwaj, and Angor.

Major Rivers:

Jawai, Sukhri, Khari, Bodi, Krishnavati, Kapalganga, and Banas.

Sacred Groves:

Sirohi district in Rajasthan is home to several sacred groves, locally known as Orans, which are preserved due to religious and cultural beliefs. These groves play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. Notable Sacred Groves in Sirohi District include Pichheshwar Mahadeo Oran, Voreshwar Mahadeo Oran, Sarneshwar Mahadeo Oran, Mochal Mataji Oran, Baleshwari Mataji Oran and Varada Hanuman Ji Oran.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Sirohi had a population of

1,036,346

comprising

534,231 males

502,115 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

940 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 20% of the population resides in urban areas, while 80% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

194 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Sirohi district's economy is predominantly based on agriculture, with a majority of the population engaged in farming and related activities. The district's terrain, characterized by the Aravalli hills and semi-arid climate, supports the cultivation of crops like bajra (pearl millet), wheat, maize, mustard, and pulses, primarily dependent on monsoon rainfall.

Irrigation facilities are limited but supplemented by water from rivers like West Banas and Jawai, as well as traditional water harvesting structures. Animal husbandry, particularly sheep and goat rearing, plays a vital role in supplementing rural incomes.

On the industrial front, Sirohi has a modest industrial base including small-scale industries such as marble mining and processing, stone carving, and handicrafts, notably wooden and metal artifacts. The district is also known for its trade in forest products and minor minerals. Tourism related to

Mount Abu, the only hill station in Rajasthan, contributes significantly to the local economy, creating employment in hospitality and allied sectors. Overall, Sirohi's economy blends traditional agriculture with emerging industrial and tourism activities, supporting a diverse livelihood base.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

57.2%

with male literacy at 71%
and female literacy at 42%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Sirohi district, nestled in the Aravalli hills of southern Rajasthan, offers a diverse range of tourist attractions blending natural beauty, history, and spirituality:

Mount Abu, is the only hill station in Rajasthan and a major tourist hub. Famous spots include Nakki Lake, Dilwara Jain Temples (known for their intricate marble carvings), Guru Shikhar Peak (the highest point of the Aravalli Range), and Sunset Point.

Sirohi Fort, is a historic fort located in Sirohi town, showcasing Rajput architecture and offers panoramic views of the town and surrounding hills.

Sundha Mata Temple, is a revered Hindu pilgrimage site dedicated to Goddess Durga, situated on the Sundha mountain, and is known for its ancient sculptures and religious festivals attracting devotees from Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Jawai Bandh and Jawai Dam, a beautiful dam area and reservoir known for bird watching, especially flamingos and other migratory birds. The region around Jawai is famous for leopard sightings and wildlife safaris.

Khadakpura, is a scenic spot known for its natural springs and small temples.

Shri Vajjnath Mahadev Temple, is an important Shiva temple with religious significance. Rural tourism initiatives offer experiences of traditional crafts, local cuisine, and village festivals.

The Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary adds an eco-tourism dimension with its diverse flora and fauna

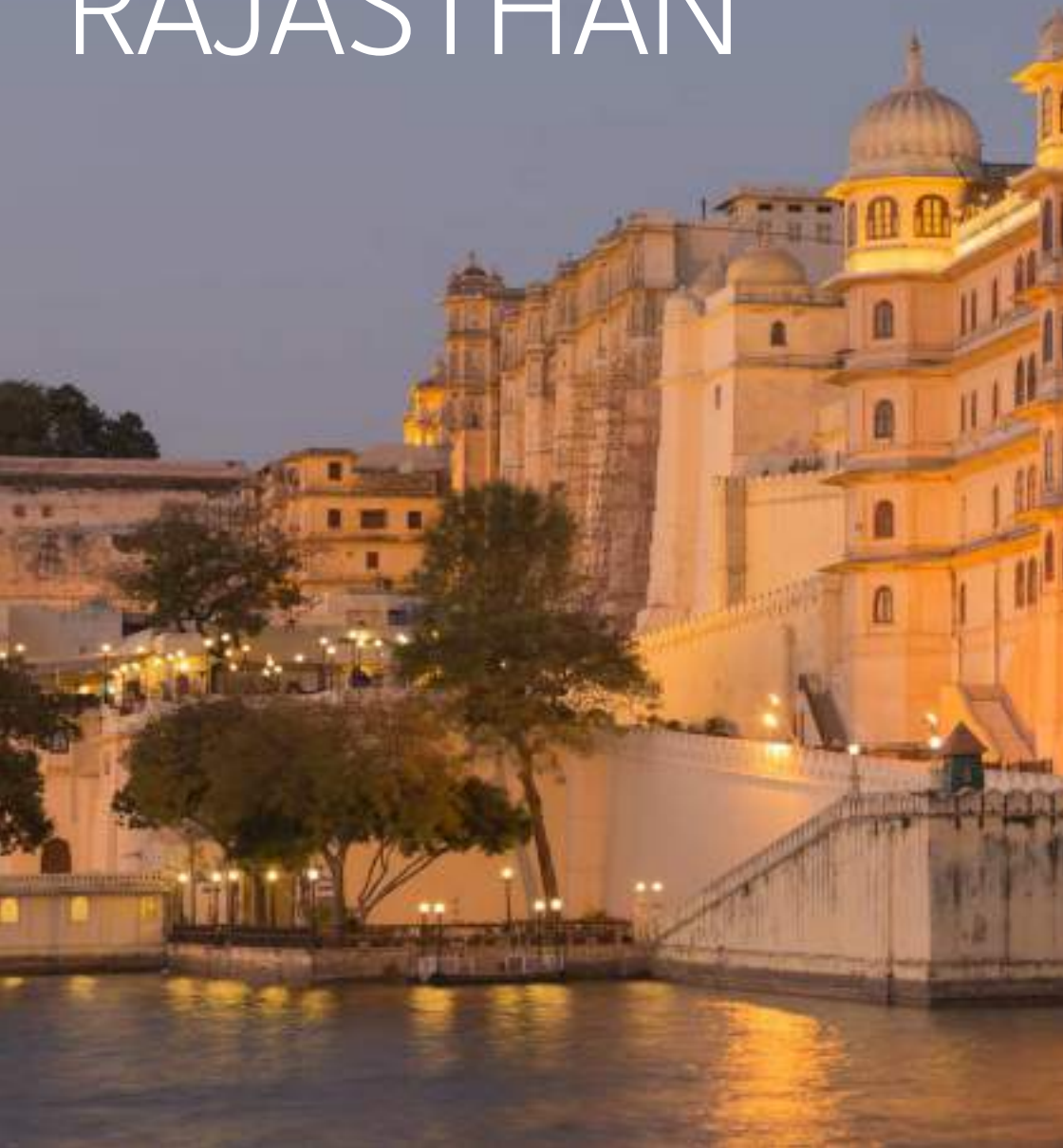
Ongoing Interventions:

- CAMPA – 748.171 Ha.
- State Plans – 2650 Ha.
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA

Challenges:

- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion
- Deforestation
- Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages.
- Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture and industry.
- Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.
- Loss of Biodiversity

DISTRICT UDAIPUR RAJASTHAN





Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Udaipur is situated at approximately between 23.4° to 24.7° North latitude and 73.0° to 74.5° East longitude. It shares borders with Rajsamand and Chittorgarh district to the north, Chittorgarh district to the east, borders

Area:

The district spans an area of 11724 square kilometres

Topography:

Udaipur features a mix of Valleys and hills, with the Aravalli Range traversing the region. The district's average elevation is around 500-900 meters above sea level.

Climate:

The climate is generally dry, with most rainfall occurring during the monsoon season. The monsoon season (July to September), the district received an average rainfall of 800 mm.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: In 2011 census, Udaipur had a population of

3,068,420

comprising

1.56 million males

1.51 million females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

958 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 8.27% of the population resides in urban areas, while 91.73% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

262 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is a significant sector in Udaipur. Major crops include Maize, Jowar, Wheat, Barley, Tuar, Moong, Urad, Gram, Mustard, Groundnut,

Sesame, Soybean, Ginger (notably in Jhadol tehsil)

The district is rich in mineral resources, making it a hub for mining and related industries. Prominent industries include Marble, Zink (Home to Hindustan Zinc, the world's second-largest zinc producer).

Udaipur is rich in minerals like Copper, lead, silver, limestone, phosphate, and talc are also extracted.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

61.82%

with male literacy at 74.74% & female literacy at 48.25%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Historical Sites:

City Palace, Udaipur: Built over nearly 400 years starting in 1559 by Maharana Udai Singh II and A fusion of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture, Kumbhalgarh Fort: A UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built by Rana Kumbha in the 15th century and Famous for having the second-longest wall in the world,

Sajjangarh Palace (Monsoon Palace):
Built by Maharana Sajjan Singh in 1884,

Bagore Ki Haveli: An 18th century haveli built by Amar Chand Badwa, Prime Minister of Mewar,

Ahar Cenotaphs (Ahar Ki Chhatriyan): A group of over 250 cenotaphs of the Maharanas of Mewar and Located near the Ahar River and also includes an archaeological museum.

Jag Mandir: A beautiful palace on an island in Lake Pichola.

Jagdish Temple: Built in 1651 by Maharana Jagat Singh and Dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Natural Attractions:

Lake Pichola: The most iconic lakes in Udaipur, surrounded by palaces, temples, and hills .

Fateh Sagar Lake: A peaceful lake with islands.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary & Monsoon Palace: Offers panoramic sunset views over the Aravalli hills and lakes.

Jaisamand Lake (Dhebar Lake): Asia's second-largest artificial lake.

Badi Lake (Tiger Lake): Ideal for hiking and peaceful nature views


Ubeshwar Ji and Dodavali Forest Area: Local pilgrimage site with lush forest cover.

Tidi Dam: Surrounded by hills and forest, great for short getaways

Unique Sites:

The Jagat Temple: one site that combines art, history, spirituality, and uniqueness, Jagat Temple is a gem hidden in the Aravallis. The temple is Built in the 10th century and rare example of early temple architecture in Rajasthan, showcasing fine sculpture work

Ongoing Interventions:

- 
- CAMPA – 55.65 lakh trees have been planted across 20,579 hectares in last 5 years
 - State Plans - 18688 ha have been undertaken
 - Nagar Van Yojana – Machhla Magra hill near Lake Pichola. Spanning 50 hectares,
 - Under Externally Aided Project – Udaipur Urja Initiatives are transforming 20,000 hectares of fallow land into green spaces.

Challenges:

- 
- Land Degradation and Soil Erosion
 - Deforestation
 - Human-wildlife conflict, especially involving leopards near villages.
 - Habitat fragmentation due to agriculture and industry.
 - Water scarcity impacting wildlife habitats.
 - Loss of Biodiversity





HARYANA

DISTRICT GURUGRAM HARYANA





The District is the second largest city in the Indian State of Haryana and is the industrial and financial centre of Haryana. It has the 3rd highest per capita income in India after Chandigarh and Mumbai. It is also the IT hub & center of various BPO companies. The District has been in existence since the times of Mahabharata. It is said that Yudhishter, the eldest brother among the pandavas, gave the village to his guru, Dronacharya, whose tank still exists on the west side of the Railway Road.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Gurugram district lies in the southern part of Haryana, forming a vital segment of the National Capital Region (NCR). The district is situated between 27°39 to 28°32 N latitude and 76°39 to 77°20 E longitude, and covers an area of approximately 1,258 square kilometers. Geographically, it is bordered by Delhi in the northeast, Faridabad in the east, Nuh in the south, and Jhajjar and Rewari in the west and southwest.

Topography:

The topography of Gurugram is largely shaped by the Aravalli hills, one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, which traverse its western and southern part. These rocky ridges and hillocks break the otherwise flat to gently undulating terrain that dominates much of the district. Eastern part of the district is a flat terrain forming part of the Indo-Gangetic plains. This unique combination of plains and ridges makes Gurugram ecologically sensitive, especially with growing urbanization and land degradation pressures in the Aravalli foothills. The average elevation is around 217 meters above sea level.

Area:

The district spans an area of 1258 square kilometres

Climate

Gurugram has a semi-arid to subtropical climate, characterised by hot and dry summers, and cool winters with temperatures dipping to 2-3°C. The district has a sub-tropical continental monsoon climate where we find seasonal rhythm, hot summer, cool winter, unreliable rainfall and great variation in temperature. Some rain is experienced during the winter season in association with passing western disturbances (cyclone). Rainfall distribution is relatively satisfactory in relation to the western parts of Haryana and it is mainly concentrated during the summer monsoon.

Average Annual Rainfall:
~500 to 600 mm.

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is now encompasses about

39.8 km²

of forested land

Which is about

3.16%

of the total geographical area, with about

2.14 sq.kms

under the Reserved Forest

33.03 sq.kms

under the Protected Forest and

62.5 sq.kms

PLPA forest and about

36.58 sq.kms

under unclassified forests.



Aravalli belt especially near Mangar Bani and Gwal Pahari form the major forest areas.

Gurgaon district is provided with 1 National Park, the Sultanpur National Park which is a critical wetland and bird habitat that supports over 250 resident and migratory bird species, including greater flamingos, pelicans, and Siberian cranes. Other protected areas in the district include Aravalli Biodiversity Park (OECM Site), Aravalli Leopard Wildlife Corridor, and Basai Wetland which supports over 280 bird species, including endangered species like the Sarus crane and Black-necked stork, and is the proposed Conservation Reserve in the district. 5 sq. kms area of Sultanpur National Park is designated as the Eco-Sensitive Zone.

Forest Flora: Gurugram's wild flora is primarily shaped by its semi-arid climate and Aravalli hill system, which supports dry deciduous and thorn scrub vegetation. Native tree species include *Acacia nilotica* (babul), *Azadirachta indica* (neem), *Boswellia serrata* (salai), and *Anogeissus pendula*. In the Aravalli slopes and ridge areas, species like Dhak (*Butea monosperma*), Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), and *Diospyros*

montana can be found. The understorey vegetation consists of hardy shrubs and grasses like *Lantana camara*, *Cassia tora*, *Cynodon dactylon*, and *Saccharum spontaneum*.

Fauna: Gurugram also supports a variety of wild fauna, including mammals such as Indian leopard

(*Panthera pardus fusca*), Indian jackal, Indian crested porcupine, jungle cat, and Indian hare are known to inhabit the hilly and forested zones. Sultanpur National Park and nearby wetlands attract over 250 species of resident and migratory birds, including painted storks, black-necked storks, Eurasian spoonbills, and Sarus cranes. Reptiles like monitor lizards, Russell's viper, and common krait, as well as amphibians like Indian bullfrog, are also reported. Basai and Najafgarh wetlands are particularly significant for avifauna conservation, acting as critical stopovers for migratory birds on the Central Asian Flyway.

Water Bodies

Sultanpur Lake, a natural wetland forming the core of Sultanpur National Park, which supports extensive birdlife and seasonal water flow. Damadama lake is one the famous tourist destination in the district. Some of the water holding structures like Ghata Bundh on Ghata Jheel (though not in existence now), Chakkarpur-Wazirbad bundh, Jharsa bundh, Kadarapur Bundh etc.



Literacy Rate:

The overall literacy rate is

84.7%

with male literacy at 90.46% &
female literacy at 77.98%.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Faridabad district
had a population of

1,514,432

comprising

826,269 males

688,163 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

833 females for every

1,000 males

Population Density:

The population density stands at

1204 persons per sq.km.

Urban vs. Rura:

Approximately 68.82% of the
population resides in urban areas,
while 31.18% live in rural regions.

Religious Composition

The majority religion is Hinduism,
followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Gurugram boasts one of India's most
dynamic and service-driven
economies, transitioning rapidly from
a historically agrarian base to a
modern urban-industrial hub. Once
reliant on agriculture, the district now
has over 60% of its workforce
engaged in non-agricultural activities.

Agricultural land still exists, primarily
in the district's southern and western
parts, with crops like wheat, mustard,
bajra, and vegetables cultivated
under semi-arid, tube-well-irrigated
conditions. However, agricultural
income forms a minor portion of the
district's GDP.

The economic engine of Gurugram is
its booming industrial and service
sectors. It is a major center for
information technology (IT),
automotive manufacturing, BPOs, and
financial services, contributing
significantly to Haryana's GSDP.

Industrial areas such as Udyog Vihar,
Manesar, and IMT Manesar host
global giants like Maruti Suzuki, Hero
MotoCorp, Honda, Deloitte,
Accenture, and many more. The
presence of Cyber City and over 250
Fortune 500 companies has made
Gurugram a leading employment and
investment destination.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Gurugram (formerly Gurgaon) has evolved from a sleepy suburb into a vibrant urban center, offering a diverse mix of natural, cultural, recreational, religious, and heritage attractions. Mega Malls attract people from adjoining cities like Delhi, Noida, Faridabad, Gaziabad etc.

Sheetla Mata Mandir, a major pilgrimage site, especially during Navratri, dedicated to the goddess of smallpox and healing.

Sultanpur National Park and Damadama lake attract lot of tourists. Besides these lot of farm tourism destinations within foothills of Aravallis attract lot of people on weekends.

Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Nathupur country's first OECM site is a demonstration of Aravalli flora and fauna attract lot of people interested in Aravalli species and for daily recreation.

Historical & Cultural Sites:

Badshahpur Fort: A large fort that once covered 17 acres and played a significant role in the history of Gurgaon

Badshahpur Baoli

Sheetla Mata Mandir: A prominent religious site dedicated to the wife of Guru Dronacharya

Aliwardi Mosque: An 18th-century mosque in Gurgaon.

Qutub Khan's Tomb: A structure built in memory of Adam Khan, a general to Emperor Akbar.

Badshahpur Baoli: A stepwell dating back to 1905, located near the fort.

ISKCON Temple are also local points of spiritual interest.

Sohna Sulphur spring and Shiv Mandir

Camera Museum (Museo Camera) collection of over 3000 objects including cameras, miscellaneous equipment and Photographic ephemera, the exhibition brings alive the milestones in Photography spanning more than 200 years

Natural & Eco-tourism Spots:

Aravalli Biodiversity Park (near MG Road): A restored native Aravalli landscape with trails, native plant species, and educational installations.

Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park:

Located in Sector 52, known for its green walking paths and fitness trails.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Park and Leisure Valley Park also offer urban green space.

There are four complexes of Haryana Tourism in the name of Birds – Shama at Gurugram, Rosy Pelican at Sultanpur National Park, Barbet at Sohna and Saras at Damadama

Sacred Groves:

Sacred grove surrounding the Bhakt Purnmal temple at village Kasan near Manesar, Gurgaon. The forests survived for decades owing to belief that cutting or damaging trees in the sacred grove will give skin disease to the person(s) involved. The soil from the bottom of the pond near the base of the hillock .
Baba Bilasiya Dargah near Gairatpur Bas village in Gurugram district. The residents of surrounding villages have protected the forests in areas surrounding the shrine areas as an act of reverence and also the belief that cutting/damaging trees in this forest patch invites wrath of the gods.elieved to have

Ongoing Interventions:

- Nagar Van Yojana – 60 ha at Ghata Revenue estate
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA.
- Soil and Moisture conservation works in Aravalli landscape
- Awareness activities
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

Challenges:

- Rapid Urbanization and deforestation
- Waste dumping in Aravalli landscape is the biggest challenge
- Loss of natural Aravalli habitats Invasive species
- Groundwater depletion
- Water pollution
- Occasional Man -animal conflict
- Seasonal forest fires
- Habitat bifurcation due to major roads passing through Aravallis





DISTRICT FARIDABAD HARYANA





Faridabad district, located in the southern part of Haryana, India, is a significant region within the National Capital Region (NCR). Established on August 15, 1979, after being carved out from Gurugram district, it now forms part of the Faridabad Division, which includes the districts of Faridabad, Palwal, and Nuh.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Faridabad Division and District 28 Degrees are between 10°50'N and 28°29'04" latitude and 77°06'49"E and 77°33'23" E longitude. It has a geographical area of 742.90 square kilometers.

Faridabad District and Division is located on South-Eastern part of the State. Its dense shape located in the south of Delhi is made in the NCR west border of Gurugram district and eastern areas of Uttar Pradesh state. The District Palwal is located in the south.

Topography

Faridabad district's topography is a blend of flat alluvial plains and undulating rocky terrain, shaped by its location between the Yamuna River and the ancient Aravalli Hills. The eastern part comprises fertile floodplains of the Yamuna, while the western and southwestern regions are marked by rugged outcrops of the Aravalli range. These hills not only contribute to the district's ecological diversity but also influence drainage patterns, with seasonal streams flowing eastward during the monsoon. The average elevation is around 198 meters above sea level.

Area

The district spans an area of 742 square kilometres

Climate

The district has a sub-tropical continental monsoon climate where we find seasonal rhythm, hot summer, cool winter, unreliable rainfall and great variation in temperature. Some rain is experienced during the winter season in association with passing western disturbances (cyclone). Air is generally dry during greater part of the year. Rainfall distribution is relatively satisfactory in relation to the western parts of Haryana and it is mainly concentrated during the summer monsoon. Average Annual Rainfall: ~600 to 800 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is now encompasses about

20 km²

of forested land

Which is about

2.69%

of the total geographical area, with about

5.26 sq.kms

under the Reserved Forest

8.47 sq.kms

under the Protected Forest and

6.27 sq.kms

area under unclassed forests



Faridabad district, while lacking a national park or wildlife sanctuary of its own, forms an important ecological transition zone within the Northern Aravalli Hill Range, which supports significant biodiversity and wildlife corridors. Mangarban Forest has been protected with a notification by the state Government and declared no construction zone around 500 m periphery of Mangar Bani.

Asola Wildlife Sanctuary of Delhi borders Faridabad district and some area of Faridabad district falls within eco-sensitive zone of Asola Wildlife Sanctuary. The eco-sensitive zone on Haryana side is 2 km from boundary of Asola WLS.

Wildlife:

Faridabad district, though heavily urbanized, retains patches of natural habitat, particularly in the Aravalli hills and sacred groves like Mangarban, which support a variety of wild flora and fauna. Aravalli hills has native vegetation patches of *Anogeissus pendula* (Dhauk) and its associates like *Boswellia serrata* (salai), *Butea monosperma* (Dhak), *Acacia leucophloea* (Ronjh), *Acacia Senegal* (Khairi), *Diospyros montana* (Pasendu) and *Grewia tenax*, *Ziziphus numularia* (Ber) etc. But most of the landscape has been invaded by *Procopis juliflora*

(Musket). Native tree species in the plains and foothills of Aravallis include *Acacia nilotica* (babul), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem). The under-storey vegetation consists of hardy shrubs and grasses like *Lantana camara*, *Cassia tora* and grasses like *Cynodon dactylon*, and *Saccharum spontaneum*. These green pockets provide refuge for wildlife such as nilgai (blue bull), golden jackal, Indian hare, and occasional leopards migrating from the Aravalli corridor. The district also hosts reptiles like monitor lizards and cobras, and supports rich avian life including peafowl, parakeets, kingfishers, and migratory birds during winter. Despite pressures from development, these natural areas remain ecologically significant and contribute to local biodiversity conservation.

Water Bodies:

Faridabad's water bodies are a mix of natural, seasonal, and man-made features, primarily shaped by the region's semi-arid climate and topography. Surajkund reservoir, Badkhal Lake, Pali and Anangpur Check Dams, and locally constructed Johads, Ponds, and Village Tanks scattered across rural areas are traditionally used for livestock, irrigation, and community use. Many mining pits which were dug below ground water level are now looking like lakes.

Yamuna river is the principal perennial river in the region.

Sacred Groves:

Mangarbani sacred grove, located near the Mangar village, on the Faridabad-Gurugram border and home to wildlife such as jackals, peafowl, civets, and a variety of birds and reptiles.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

As per the 2011 Census, Faridabad district has a population of approx.

1,809,733

comprising

962,958 males

846,775 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

879 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 79.35% of the population resides in urban areas, while 20.65% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

2440 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.



ECONOMY

Faridabad has a diversified economy, with both industrial development and agriculture playing significant roles. Its proximity to Delhi, strategic location along major highways, and integration into the National Capital Region (NCR) have shaped its transformation from a rural-agricultural base to an industrial and urban economic hub.

Agriculture mainly practiced in the eastern and southern rural parts of the district, especially near the Yamuna floodplains. Major crops include paddy, Bajra, jowar and pulses in Kharif season and Wheat, mustard and barley in Rabi season.

Vegetables (potato, onion), fruits (guava, papaya), and floriculture is practiced in peri-urban zones.

Faridabad is one of Haryana's most important industrial districts, historically dubbed the "Manchester of Haryana" due to its manufacturing strength. Located on Delhi- Mumbai Industrial corridor.

Important industries include Engineering goods, Automobile components, Textiles and garments, Plastic and rubber, Electronics and IT hardware, and printing and packaging.

Major Industrial Areas include Old Faridabad, Ballabgarh, and Sector 24–25 industrial estates, Faridabad Industrial Model Township (IMT) and Prithla industrial zone

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

83.04%

with male literacy at 90.25% & female literacy at 74.71%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Faridabad offers a mix of historical, cultural, natural, and recreational sites, reflecting its rich heritage and proximity to the Aravalli hills and the Yamuna river. Though often overshadowed by Delhi and Gurugram, Faridabad has unique attractions worth exploring:

Historical & Cultural Sites:

Surajkund, an ancient reservoir built in the 10th century, famous for the annual Surajkund International Crafts Mela.

Badkhal Lake, a eco-tourism spot surrounded by Aravalli hills, known for picnics and birdwatching.

Baba Farid's Tomb, the district is named after the Sufi saint Baba Farid, and his tomb and associated shrines attract local pilgrims.

Raja Nahar Singh Palace (Ballabgarh Fort), a historic palace and fort of the last ruler of Ballabgarh,

Natural and Eco-tourism Spots:

Mangarbani Forest, a rare patch of sacred grove with rich biodiversity

Pali Hills and Asola Bhatti Ridge, for trekking, birdwatching, and experiencing Aravalli's flora and fauna.

Recreational Areas:

Appu Ghar Water Park, offering family-friendly entertainment.

Rose Garden for leisure and jogging.

Haryana Tourism Complexes:

Faridabad offers several Haryana Tourism complexes, including the Rajhans Convention Centre at Surajkund and the Nahar Singh Palace (also known as Nahar Singh Mahal) in Ballabhgarh.

Additionally, the area features the Aravalli Golf Course and Badkhal Lake. Magpie Tourist complex is located in the heart of Faridabad city.

Nahar Singh Mahal is located at Ballabhgarh in Faridabad district of Haryana. This fort was built by the forefathers of Jat Raja Nahar Singh around 1739 AD, and after whom Ballabgarh was named, the construction however continued in parts till about 1850. The fort is also known as Raja Nahar Singh Palace.



Ongoing Interventions:

Aforestation Activities:



Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR. No.	Name of District	Scheme	Restoration/intervention (in ha)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (target)
1	Faridabad	Campa	18 Ha/ 40 RKM	NIL	11.367 HA/ 189 RKM	Not Allocated
		State Schemes	275.50 Ha/ 40 RKM	154 Ha/ 50 RKM	161 Ha/ 48 RKM	158 Ha/ 05 RKM
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR No.	Name of District	Under the program of	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. Crore)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Faridabad	Campa	14496195	NIL	15459916	NIL
		State Schemes	58669125	41869980	49278517	NIL
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

- Nagar Van Yojana – No any
- Under Externally Aided Project – No any.
- Soil and Moisture conservation works in Aravalli landscape
- Awareness activities
- Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

- ### Challenges:
- Rapid Urbanization and deforestation
 - Waste dumping in Aravalli landscape is the biggest challenge
 - Loss of natural Aravalli habitats
 - Invasive species
 - Groundwater depletion
 - Water pollution
 - Occasional Man -animal conflict
 - Seasonal forest fires
 - Habitat bifurcation due to major roads passing through Aravallis

DISTRICT REWARI HARYANA





Rewari district, located in the southern part of Haryana, is known for its historical significance, agricultural base, and growing industrial footprint. The district lies in the National Capital Region (NCR) and is strategically positioned near major cities like Gurugram and Delhi, contributing to its socio-economic integration with northern India's development corridors.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Rewari is located in the Gurugram Division, between $\sim 27.8^{\circ}\text{N}$ to 28.3°N latitude and $\sim 76.3^{\circ}\text{E}$ to 76.8°E longitude. It is bordered by Jhajjar to the north, Gurugram to the east, and Alwar to the south and Mahendragarh to the west. Major Towns are Rewari, Bawal, Dharuhera, Kosli

Area:

The district spans an area of 1594 square kilometres

Topography:

Rewari district exhibits a predominantly flat to gently undulating topography, characteristic of the semi-arid plains of southern Haryana. The terrain generally slopes from the west and southwest towards the northeast, with occasional ridges and low hillocks marking the transition towards the Aravalli foothills, particularly in areas near Bawal. These southern extensions of the ancient Aravalli range bring slight elevation and stony outcrops to the otherwise level landscape. The soil composition ranges from sandy loam to loamy.

Climate:

Rewari district experiences a semi-arid climate characterized by hot summers, a short monsoon season, and cool winters. Summers, extending from April to June, are intense and dry, with temperatures often soaring above 44°C, while winters (December to February) are relatively mild to cold, with temperatures occasionally dropping below 5°C. The district receives most of its annual rainfall—around 500 to 600 mm—during the southwest monsoon months of July to September. However, rainfall is often erratic and unevenly distributed, leading to frequent dry spells. Humidity levels remain low for most of the year, contributing to high evapotranspiration rates. Average annual rainfall is ~500–600 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Rewari district in Haryana has a relatively low forest cover, reflecting its semi-arid climate and predominantly agricultural landscape. The district's forested areas are primarily classified as Protected Forests, with no significant Reserved Forests

559.48 Ha.

reported. The total forest cover is approximately

61.45 sq km

constituting about

3.86%

of the district's geographical area. Rewari district in Haryana does not have any national parks. Nahar Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Kosli division is the Wildlife Sanctuary and is a vital habitat for species such as blackbucks, nilgai, jackals, foxes, and hares. It represents one of the last refuges for blackbucks in the region. An Eco-Sensitive Zone has also been established extending up to 100 meters from the boundary.

A Peacock & Chinkara Breeding Centre, Jhabuwa has also been established over 65 acres dedicated to the conservation and breeding of Indian peafowl and

chinkara (Indian gazelle), contributing to the preservation of these species.

Wildlife

The district's wild fauna includes mammals such as blackbuck, nilgai (blue bull), Indian fox, jackal, and hare, which find refuge in protected habitats like the Nahar Wildlife Sanctuary. Reptiles like monitor lizards and various snake species are also present, along with a variety of birds, including peafowl, partridges, doves, and migratory species during winter months.

Water Bodies:

Rewari has numerous man-made ponds (locally called "Johads"), check dams, and traditional water harvesting structures. The Sabi River & its bridge on NH-48 plays a vital role in water conservation. Key water bodies include village ponds in places like Bawal, Kosli, and Dharuhera, many of which have been rejuvenated under state schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and MGNREGA-linked water conservation efforts.

Sacred Groves:

Rewari district in Haryana does not have officially documented sacred groves.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: As per the 2011 Census, Rewari district has a population of approx.

900,332
comprising
474,335 males
425,997 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

898 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 25.93% of the population resides in urban areas, while 74.07% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

565 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam



ECONOMY

Agriculture remains the backbone of Rewari's economy, with about three-quarters of the population residing in rural areas and engaged in farming and allied activities.

The district's fertile alluvial soil, supplemented by irrigation from tube wells and canals, supports the cultivation of major crops such as wheat, mustard, bajra (pearl millet), barley, and pulses. Seasonal vegetable farming is also common in some areas.

Livestock rearing, particularly cattle and goats, complements agriculture, providing additional income and sustenance.

Industrial hubs like Dharuhera, Bawal, and Kosli, which are part of the Delhi-NCR industrial belt. The district hosts a mix of manufacturing units including automobile components, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods. Several industrial estates and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) provide infrastructure and investment incentives, attracting both domestic and multinational companies.

Literacy Rate:

The overall literacy rate is

80.99%

with male literacy at 91.44% and female literacy at 69.57%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Rewari district offers a blend of historical, cultural, and natural attractions that reflect its rich heritage and evolving urban landscape.

Rewari Heritage City, showcases the legacy of the Ahir community and hosts several cultural festivals throughout the year.

Rewari Steam Locomotive Shed, one of the oldest surviving steam locomotive sheds in India, this historic railway workshop is a unique attraction for railway enthusiasts. It preserves vintage steam engines and showcases India's railway heritage.

Rao Tula Ram Memorial, dedicated to Rao Tula Ram, a prominent freedom fighter from the region.

Sainik School, Rewari, apart from its educational significance, the



campus is architecturally impressive and sometimes hosts public events, drawing visitors interested in military education history.

Local Temples and Sacred Sites, including Sheetla Mata Temple, and

Industrial Tourism, with growing industrial zones like Dharuhera and Bawal, some factories and manufacturing units offer guided tours, showcasing modern industrial processes and contributing to the district's economic tourism.

Ongoing Interventions:

Most of the area of Aravalli hills in Rewari district is covered either under Section 4&5 of Punjab Land Preservation Act or covered under Aravalli Plantation which have been considered as Forest by orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Rewari district is also covered under Aravalli notification dated 07.05.1992 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI. GairMumkinPahar areas have been granted protection under this notification. In the year 2023-24, 3582.29 hectares of Aravalli land of district

Rewari has been notified as protected forest to prevent degradation and promote afforestation. There is plan to restore the degraded area through

Forest Landscape Restoration Model under compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of forest land in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.Challenges in the district.

Various interventions have been made even after Aravalli project (1990-99) in the Aravalli hills and other part of the district under State Schemes and under CAMPA like afforestation, soil moisture conservation works but these works were scattered and there is need for concentrated interventions in whole Aravalli Landscape.

Nagar Van Yojana – No any

Under Externally Aided Project – Various interventions were made under European Union aided Aravalli Project during 1990-1999 in the Aravalli hills but due to anthropogenic pressures, the density is low to medium.

Plantation activities have been undertaken in the district under various programmes like EkPedMaakeNaam, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Puadhgiri etc. with the involvement of various stakeholders.

Challenges:

Groundwater depletion and Water Scarcity.

Poor soil fertility and Inadequate irrigation.

Habitat fragmentation

Overgrazing

Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR. No.	Name of District	Scheme	Restoration/intervention (in ha)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (target)
1	Rewari	Campa	42 ha	NIL	62 RKM	Target Awaited
		State Schemes	372 Ha. 15 RKM	190 Ha 10 RKM	"178 Ha. 12 RKM	135 Ha/ 05 RKM
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR No.	Name of District	Under the program of	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. Crore)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Rewari	Campa	47935348	13086457	1207018	NIL
		State Schemes	65125501	58348687	70288314	NIL
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

EkPedMaaKeNaam : Target achieved ...

Miyawaki :Rejanglapark Sector 18, Rewari and HSIIDC Dharuhera.

Awareness Programmes with other stakeholders: Van Mahotsav, Nature Camps, Environment Day etc.



DISTRICT NUH HARYANA





Nuh district, formerly known as Mewat, is located in the southern part of Haryana, India, and is part of the National Capital Region (NCR).

Despite its proximity to urban centers like Gurugram and Delhi, Nuh remains one of India's most underdeveloped districts, as identified by NITI Aayog in 2018.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

Nuh spans an area of approximately 1,507 to 1,860 square kilometers between $\sim 27.9^{\circ}$ N and 77.0° E, depending on different sources. It is bordered by Gurugram to the north, Palwal to the east, and Alwar and Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan to the south and west. The district lies within the historical Mewat region and features parts of the Aravalli Hills, locally known as Kala Pahar.

Area:

The district spans an area of 1507 square kilometres

Topography:

The topography of Nuh district is defined by a diverse mix of rugged hills, undulating terrain, and narrow alluvial plains. A significant portion of the district lies within the ancient Aravalli hill system, particularly in the western and central regions. These hills, known locally as Kala Pahad, consist mainly of hard quartzite rock formations and contribute to a landscape that is largely rocky and uneven. The terrain gradually transitions into gently sloping plains towards the east, where the land is more amenable to agriculture.

Climate:

Nuh experiences a **semi-arid climate** characterized by **hot summers, mild winters, and low, erratic rainfall**. Summer temperatures often soar above **45°C**, especially between April and June, making this period particularly harsh. Winters, in contrast, are relatively mild and dry, with temperatures dropping to around **6°C to 10°C** during December and January. The region receives **most of its rainfall during the monsoon months** of July to September. However, the rainfall pattern is highly variable, often leading to **frequent drought-like conditions**.

Average Annual Rainfall
400–600 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per ISFR 2023, Nuh district in Haryana exhibits minimal forest cover, reflecting its predominantly semi-arid landscape and limited forested regions. The total forest area in the district is about

58.92 km²

of forested land

Which is about

3.65%

of the total geographical area of Haryana.

In April 2023, the Haryana government declared

36,400 acres

of the Aravalli region across Rewari, Gurugram, and Nuh districts as Protected Forests. Of this, approx

24,600 acres

are situated in Nuh district, making it the largest share among the three. This designation aims to enhance greenery and restrict non-forestry activities in the area.

Nuh district in Haryana does not host any officially designated National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS), or Conservation Reserves. There are no officially notified ESZs within Nuh district.

Wildlife:

The wild flora and fauna of Nuh district, though limited in diversity due to its semi-arid climate and rocky terrain, still reflect the ecological character of the Aravalli hill ecosystem. The region's vegetation is primarily composed of tropical dry deciduous and thorny scrub forests, with species such as Dhak (*Butea monosperma*), Babool (*Acacia nilotica*), Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*), and Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*) dominating the landscape.

The fauna includes a variety of small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Common sightings include jackals, hares, Indian monitor lizards, peacocks, and partridges. The Aravalli range serves as a corridor for leopards and other wildlife, linking Nuh to larger ecological networks in neighboring districts.

Water Bodies:

Nuh district, located in the semi-arid zone of southern Haryana, is water-scarce and lacks perennial rivers or large natural lakes. Nuh System of Lakes, a collection of several lakes lying in each other's vicinity, includes the permanent swamp of Khalilpur lake 1,500 acres (610 ha) in size

which gets flooded during rains, lies north-west of Nuh around Khalilpur and Indari villages on Delhi Western Peripheral Expressway, permanent swamp with standing water of Chandaini lake 1,500 acres (610 ha) in size which lies 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) west of Khalilpur village, Sangil-Ujina lake is not a clearly defined basin of the lake as it carried only the overflow water in the rainy season from Khalilpur lake and other lakes, and Kotla Dahar lake at the foothills of Aravalli Range is the largest lake which is 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) broad and 4 kilometres (2.5 mi) long and lies across Nuh and Ferozpur Jhirka tehsils. Through a system of bunds and artificial drains the lakes of Khalilpur, Chandaini, and Kotla Dahar are drained by November to make the land available for cultivation. Many springs still flow throughout the year in Nuh Aravallis like Kotla, Tapkan, Khod Basai, Nalhar etc.

Sacred Groves:

Nuh district, nestled within the Aravalli landscape of Haryana, is home to several sacred groves, locally known as “Dev Van” or “Pipli” in some areas. Nalhar Mahadev temple and Reservoir may be considered as sacred grove in the district.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Mahendragarh district had a population of approx

1,085,313,

comprising

563,028 males

522,285 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

928 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 11.9% of the population resided in rural areas, with the remaining 88.1% in urban centers.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

1053 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam

ECONOMY

The main occupation in the district is agriculture along with allied and agro-based activities. The Meos are the predominant population group and are all agriculturists. Agriculture is mostly rain-fed except in small pockets where canal irrigation is available. Agriculture production measured in terms of crop yield per hectare is low in comparison to the other districts of the State.

Animal husbandry, particularly dairy, is the secondary source of income for the people and those who live closer to the hilly ranges of Aravali also keep sheep and goats. Milk yields are not so low, however, due to heavy indebtedness, most of the farmers are forced to sell the milk to the lenders at lower than normal price, which drastically reduces their income from the milk. Towns like Punhana, Pinangwan, Ferozepur Jhirka, Taoru and Nuh are major hub of retail shops and acts as the backbone of day to day life in area. Rojka-Meo industrial estate (called IMT Sohna) is the upcoming industrial estate in the region. Some beef production units have also been established in the region. Due to passing of major Expressway Highways like Kundli-Manesar Expressway and

Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway, there is potential of development of more industrial hubs in the district. Some people also make charcoal in the district in village Meoli.

Literacy Rate:

The overall literacy rate is

53.9%

with male literacy at 66.7% &
female literacy at 39.4%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Nuh district, situated in the scenic Aravalli foothills of Haryana, offers a unique blend of natural beauty, historical sites, and cultural heritage that attracts visitors seeking both spirituality and eco-tourism experiences. Jhirkeshwar Mahadev, also known as Jhir Mandir, is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and located in Ferozepur Jhirka, Haryana, India.

This cave temple is located at foothills of Aravalli Range. According to legend, the Shiva Lingam was manifested by the invocation of mantras by the eldest Pandava brother, Yudhishtira, when they were going to Virat Nagar during exile

Nalhar Mahadev Temple, is a historic and revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located near Nuh town.

Kotla Fort (Mewat Fort), located in Nuh city, this historic fort reflects the rich heritage of the Mewat region.

Palla Fort: Located just 2.5 km from Nuh town.

Local Handicrafts and Culture, the district is home to vibrant local traditions including folk music, dance, and crafts by the Meo community. Visitors can explore local markets for traditional embroidery, pottery, and handloom products..

Ongoing Interventions:

Most of the area of Aravalli hills in Nuh district is covered either under Section 4&5 of Punjab Land Preservation Act or covered under Aravalli Plantation which have been considered as Forest by orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Nuh district was part of Gurugram District earlier, therefore it is also covered under Aravalli notification dated 07.05.1992 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Gol. Gair Mumkin Pahar areas have been granted protection under this notification.

In the year 2023–24, 11126.85 hectares of Aravalli land of district Nuh has been notified as protected forest to prevent degradation and promote afforestation. There is plan to restore the degraded area through Forest Landscape Restoration Model under compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of forest land in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Various interventions have been made even after Aravalli project (1990-99) in the Aravalli hills and other part of the district under State Schemes and under CAMPA like afforestation, soil moisture conservation works but these works were scattered and there is need for concentrated interventions in whole Aravalli Landscape.

Nagar Van Yojana – No any

Under Externally Aided Project – Various interventions were made under European Union aided Aravalli Project during 1990-1999 in the Aravalli hills but due to anthropogenic pressures, the density is low to medium except in some pockets like Jhir Forest.

Plantation activities have been undertaken in the district under various programmes like Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Puadhgiri etc. with the involvement of various stakeholders.

Although mining is banned in the district due to orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court but the mining activities in Rajasthan is not banned and paths are created through Haryana Aravallis to transport mining material from Rajasthan. The mining activities have been carried out in Rajasthan upto Haryana border and made 90 degree cut on Rajasthan side at some places. There is need to keep buffer criteria at state borders.

Challenges:

Poor soil fertility and Inadequate moisture

Water scarcity and deep groundwater table

Habitat fragmentation

Overgrazing

Mining – Mining is the biggest challenge in Nuh Aravallis.



Aravalli Restoration and Interventions Afforestation activities:

Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR. No.	Name of District	Scheme	Restoration/intervention (in ha)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (target)
1	Nul	Campa	210 Ha 110 RKM	NIL	239 Ha 10 RKM	Target Awaited
		State Schemes	255 Ha 10 RKM	162 Ha 15 RKM	171 Ha 20 RKM	195 Ha 15 RKM
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR No.	Name of District	Under the program of	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. Crore)			2025-26
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Nul	Campa	86225522	31439164	58006185	NIL
		State Schemes	59448915	56249199	89223576	NIL
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Soil Moisture Conservation Activities:

11155 Cubic Meter Crate Wire structure established in Arawali Areas in Nuh District.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam : Target achieved 250300 plants planted in district Nuh by Other Departments. Jal Shakti Abhiyan: 122941 plants distributed to Gram Panchayats, NGOs related to Forestry works etc under Jal Shakti Abhiyan campaign.


Paudhagiri : 61025 plants distributed to Schools in District Nuh under paudhagiri campaign.

Free Supply : 168157 plants distributed to public and NSG/CRPF in District Nuh under Free Supply campaign.

Miyawaki : 11000 plants planted in Gogjaka village Panchayat Land of Tauru Tehsil. Awareness Programmes with other stakeholders: Van Mahotsav, Nature Camps, Environment Day etc.

DISTRICT MAHENDRAGARH HARYANA





Mahendragarh district, located in the southwestern part of Haryana, India, is known for its rich historical heritage, strategic location, and predominantly rural character. Narnaul is the headquarter of the district.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Mahendragarh district lies in the southwestern part of Haryana, bordering Rajasthan, and forms part of the semi-arid zone of northwestern India. The district is located between latitude 27°47'N to 28°26'N and longitude 75°56'E to 76°51'E. The district is bordered by Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani districts to the north, Rewari district and Alwar district of Rajasthan to the east, and Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan to the west.

Topography

Mostly undulating plains with interspersed ridges and hillocks from the Aravalli Range, especially in the western and southern parts (notably around Narnaul, Nangal Chaudhary, and Madhogarh). The Aravalli outcrops are a defining topographic feature. They are rocky, with scrub vegetation, and form small ranges and isolated hills like Madhogarh Hill (site of the historic Madhogarh Fort) and Dhosi Hill (a conical hill with volcanic origin, located near Narnaul)

Elevations range between 200–450 meters above sea level. The average elevation is around 300 meters above sea level.

Area

The district spans an area of 1899 square kilometres

Climate

Semi-arid, Summers with temperatures soaring up to 47°C, with cold winters with temperatures dipping as low as 1-2°C. Rainfall occurs primarily during July–September (southwest monsoon) but very erratic due to which droughts are frequent.

Average Annual Rainfall
400–500 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest area in the district is now encompasses about

117.22 km²

of forested land

Which is about

5.86%

of the total geographical area,
with about

6,531.57 hectares

of Aravalli land in Mahendragarh district have been notified as Protected Forests under the sub-section (2) of section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 on **July 20, 2023 and December 21, 2023.**

Mahendragarh district in Haryana does not host any **national parks, wildlife sanctuaries (WLS), or conservation reserves** within its administrative boundaries.

Wildlife

Mahendragarh's wild flora is primarily shaped by its semi-arid climate and the Aravalli hill ecosystem. The region supports dry deciduous and thorn scrub vegetation, typical of the northwestern Indian landscape. Dominant plant species include *Prosopis juliflora* (vilayati kikar), *Acacia nilotica* (babul), *Capparis decidua* (ker), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (ber), and *Calotropis procera* (aak). Native grasses such as *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Dichanthium annulatum* are important for soil conservation and local livestock.

Common mammals include Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), jackal (*Canis aureus*), Indian grey mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*), and nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), which often wander near agricultural fields. The Aravalli hills offer shelter to Indian palm civets and occasionally Indian porcupines. Reptilian fauna includes species like monitor lizards, Indian flapshell turtles, and various non-venomous snakes. The avifauna is relatively diverse, with species such as peacocks, partridges, bee-eaters, lapwings, and migratory birds visiting seasonal water bodies.

Water Bodies

No major lakes or reservoirs exist in the district due to its topography and rainfall limitations. The region primarily depends on seasonal streams, traditional water harvesting systems, and groundwater extraction for its water needs. A key seasonal river in Mahendragarh, the Dohan is a tributary of the Sahibi River, which in turn is part of the Yamuna basin. The Dohan originates in the Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan and flows through Mahendragarh. It is non-perennial and usually carries water only during the monsoon. Krishnavati River (also called Kantali) is mostly dry except during intense rainfall. Like the Dohan, it is linked hydrologically to the Sahibi basin.

Sacred Groves

Small shrines or temples (often dedicated to local deities such as Gugga Pir, Baba Bhairon, or Devi Mata) are commonly found near patches of native vegetation. These patches are often left undisturbed due to taboos against cutting trees or grazing animals, particularly near "Samadhis" (memorials of saints or spiritual figures).

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

In 2011 census, Mahendragarh district had a population of approx

922,088,

comprising

486,665 males

435,423 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

914 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 14.40% of the population resided in rural areas, with the remaining 85.60% in urban centers.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

486 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam

ECONOMY

Mahendragarh's economy is primarily agrarian, with emerging trends in small-scale industry and services. The district lies in southern Haryana, part of the semi-arid belt, and faces challenges related to water scarcity, soil degradation, and limited industrial diversification.

Agriculture forms the backbone of Mahendragarh district's economy, engaging a majority of the rural population. The region primarily cultivates wheat, mustard, bajra (pearl millet), and gram, with a heavy reliance on Rabi crops due to erratic and scanty monsoon rainfall. The district's semi-arid climate, coupled with sandy loam soils, poses significant challenges to crop productivity.

Groundwater is the main source of irrigation

Industrial development is relatively limited but gradually expanding through small-scale industries and informal enterprises.

Key industrial activities include agro-processing (such as mustard oil extraction and flour milling), stone crushing, mining, and local handicrafts like pottery and carpentry.

Industrial hubs like Narnaul and Ateli are witnessing slow growth, with support from the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC).

Literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

56.33%

with male literacy at 69.48% &
female literacy at 43.06%.

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Mahendragarh district in Haryana offers a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural attractions that reflect its diverse heritage and scenic landscapes. Here are some notable places of interest-

Historical & Architectura Sites:

Jal Mahal, Narnaul: This Mughal-era palace is situated in the center of an artificial lake. The structure showcases intricate Mughal architecture and was intended to represent a "second Kausar" (the Pond of Abundance in Muslim paradise) for its occupants.

Madhogarh Fort: Located atop Madhogarh Hill in the Aravalli range and features Hindu Rajput architecture and offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Chor Gumbad: Known as the "Thieves' Dome," this monument is perched on a hill and has been developed into a park area, making it a popular spot for picnics and leisure.

Birbal Ka Chhatta: A five-story structure with a central courtyard, features unique architectural elements such as stone pillars, a Darbar Hall, and expansive verandas.

Tripolia Gateway: Built by Shah Quli Khan, this triple-arched gateway stands as a testament to Mughal architectural prowess

Religious Sites:

Modawala Mandir: this temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is a significant pilgrimage site, especially during the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

Garhi Mahasar Mata Mandir: Located in Narnaul city, this temple is dedicated to the goddess Mata and is a revered site for devotees.

Baba Jai Ram Das Mandir, Pali: A popular religious site in the district, this temple complex includes a park, pond, and facilities for visitors. An annual fair featuring various competitions is organized here.

Natural Attractions:

Dhosi Hill: An extinct volcano located near the villages of Thana and Kultajpur, features ancient water reservoirs and is associated with various legends from the Mahabharata. It is the highest peak of Haryana Aravallis having elevation of 740 m above mean sea level.

Aravalli Restoration and Interventions

Afforestation activities:

Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR. No.	Name of District	Scheme	Restoration/intervention (in ha)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (target)
1	Nul	Campa	43.642	NIL	7.299	73.122
		State Schemes	246.25	166.25	165	131.25
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Interventions made and proposed in Aravalli Districts						
SR No.	Name of District	Under the program of	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. Crore)			
			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
1	Nul	Campa	2.59	1.63	0.63	NIL
		State Schemes	59448915	8.23	3.29	NIL
		Others	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Nagar Van Yojana – No any

Under Externally Aided Project – No any.

Soil and Moisture conservation works in Aravalli landscape – 4 Nos. Ponds at village 1No. Balana, 2 No. RF Kanti, 1 No. Dostpur AP Area (Rs.5918862)

Awareness activities- World Forestry Day, Van Mahotsav, Nature Camps, Environment Day etc.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – 132315 No of plants target achieved during 2024-25

Challenges in the district

Deforestation and Land Degradation

Soil erosion due to wind

Groundwater depletion and Water scarcity





An aerial photograph of a vast, lush green mountain range. The foreground shows a steep, densely forested slope with a winding road. The middle ground features rolling hills and valleys covered in dense vegetation. The background shows more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a bright sky. The word "GUJARAT" is overlaid in large, white, bold capital letters on the right side of the image.

GUJARAT

DISTRICT ARAVALLI GUJARAT





Aravalli district, located in the northeastern part of Gujarat, India, was established on August 15, 2013, as the 29th district of the state. It was carved out from the Sabarkantha district and is named after the Aravalli Hills that traverse the region. The district headquarters is situated in Modasa.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Aravalli district is situated in the northeastern region of Gujarat and covers an area of about 3,308 square kilometers. The approximate geographical coordinates of Aravalli district, Gujarat are 23.50° N and 73.20° E, which roughly correspond to the district headquarters, Modasa, and the central region of the district. The district is bounded by Rajasthan state to the north and other Gujarat districts on the other sides. It comprises six administrative talukas — Modasa, Bayad, Dhansura, Bhiloda, Malpur, and Meghraj.

Topography

The topography of Aravalli district is marked by the presence of the ancient Aravalli Hills, which dominate the northern and northeastern parts of the district with their rugged and hilly terrain. These hills are characterized by rocky ridges, forested slopes, and varying elevations that shape the district's natural landscape. The southern and southwestern parts of the district transition into relatively flat and fertile plains suitable for agriculture. The district's terrain varies from hilly forest tracts to agricultural lands, with small rivers and seasonal streams flowing through valleys and plains, adding to the district's diverse ecological and physical features. The average elevation is around 200-400 meters above sea level.

Area

The district spans an area of 3308 square kilometres

Climate

Aravalli district experiences a semi-arid to subtropical climate, typical of the north-eastern Gujarat region. Summers are hot and dry, with temperatures often soaring above 40°C (104°F) during peak months of May and June. Winters are mild and pleasant, with temperatures ranging between 10°C to 25°C. The district receives the majority of its rainfall during the southwest monsoon season, between June and September. The climate is generally characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons, influencing the cropping patterns and water resource management in the district.

Reserved Forest area,

0.91

Protected Forest, and

147.26

unclassified forest. The district's forested areas are primarily classified as Reserved and Protected Forests. The total forest cover is approximately

Aravalli district in Gujarat does not host any national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, or conservation reserves within its administrative boundaries.

Wildlife:

Aravalli district hosts diverse pockets of forest and scrubland ecosystems that support a variety of wild flora and fauna. The district's flora is largely deciduous and includes species such as teak (*Tectona grandis*), khair (*Acacia catechu*), dhavda (*Anogeissus latifolia*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), and bamboo.

The forest patches, especially in the hilly regions of Bhiloda, Meghraj, and Malpur talukas, serve as habitat for numerous fauna. Commonly found wildlife includes Indian hare, jungle cat, mongoose, nilgai (blue bull), wild boar, and porcupines. The area also supports a rich avifauna with species like peafowl, partridges, parakeets, owls, and various raptors. Although large predators are not commonly sighted, the proximity to

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the Gujarat Forest Statistics Report 2023-24, the total forest area in the district is

448.57 sq.km

with

300.40 sq.km

sanctuaries like Balaram Ambaji hints at occasional movement of species such as leopards into forest fringes of Aravalli.

Water Bodies:

The district has several reservoirs, and small water bodies that play a crucial role in irrigation, drinking water supply, and ecological balance. Several check dams, percolation tanks, and minor irrigation projects have been constructed across the district to harvest rainwater and support agriculture in the undulating terrain. The Meshwo Reservoir and Malpur Lake are notable water bodies that aid in local irrigation and groundwater recharge. In addition, many village ponds and talavs (traditional tanks) dot the rural landscape, serving as essential sources of water for livestock and local communities.

Rivers:

The major rivers flowing through the district include the Vatrak, Mazum, Meshwo, and Shedhi — all tributaries of the Sabarmati River. These rivers are primarily seasonal, gaining volume during the monsoon months.

Sacred Groves:

Locally referred to as “dev van” or “van devta sthals”—are small patches of forest preserved by local communities due to their religious and cultural significance. Noted sacred sites are Bhavnath temple- Mau, Shamla ji Temple, and Devni Mori

Rivers:

The major rivers flowing through the district include the Vatrak, Mazum, Meshwo, and Shedhi — all tributaries of the Sabarmati River. These rivers are primarily seasonal, gaining volume during the monsoon months.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

As per the 2011 Census, Aravalli district has a population of approx.

1,039,318

comprising

532,386 males

507,532 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

953 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 79.35% of the population resides in urban areas, while 20.65% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

460 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Agriculture forms the backbone of Aravalli district's economy, employing a significant portion of the rural population.

The region's semi-arid climate and undulating topography support rainfed agriculture, although some areas benefit from minor irrigation projects and check dams. Major crops cultivated include groundnut, maize, bajra (pearl millet), cotton, castor, wheat, and pulses, with vegetables and fruits like guava and pomegranate gaining popularity in recent years.

The district is also known for traditional cropping patterns in tribal areas, where mixed and subsistence farming is common. Soil types range from sandy loam to black cotton soil in patches, allowing moderate crop diversity.

Animal husbandry, particularly cattle and goat rearing, supplements agrarian incomes, with dairy farming becoming increasingly prominent due to support from cooperatives like Amul.

Primary industrial activities include ceramics, stone quarrying, agro-processing, and handicrafts, particularly in talukas like Modasa and Bhiloda.

The region is rich in mineral resources such as granite and quartz, which support a localized mining and stone-crushing industry.

Modasa, the district headquarters, has emerged as a minor industrial hub with a presence of textile units, fabrication workshops, and small-scale engineering enterprises. garments, Plastic and rubber, Electronics and IT hardware, and printing and packaging.

Major Industrial Areas include Old Faridabad, Ballabgarh, and Sector 24–25 industrial estates, Faridabad Industrial Model Township (IMT) and Prithla industrial zone

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

75.84%



TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Aravalli district, nestled amidst the scenic hills of the Aravalli Range, offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and historical significance. The district is known for its ancient temples, wildlife, and archaeological sites that attract pilgrims, history enthusiasts, and nature lovers alike.

The Bhavnath Temple at Mau village in Bhiloda taluka is a prominent spiritual destination, famed for its 1300-year-old Shiva shrine and the sacred.

Bhavnath fair is held on the occasion of MahaShivratri Bhrigukund pond believed to have healing powers.

Shamlaji Temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, located on the banks of the Meshwo River, which hosts vibrant fairs drawing thousands of devotees annually. For nature enthusiasts, Shamalji fair is held every year in the month of Kartik.

Devni Mori archaeological site offers glimpses into the region's Buddhist past with ruins of a 4th-century monastery. The undulating terrain and forest patches provide habitat for diverse flora and fauna, making spots ideal for eco-tourism and trekking.

Year 2024-25, 115 Hectare plantation.

PERG Project: Under JICA project 250 Hectares plantation is to be done in Year 2025-26.

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

Challenges in the district:

Groundwater depletion and Water Scarcity.

Land degradation and Deforestation

Poor soil fertility and Inadequate irrigation

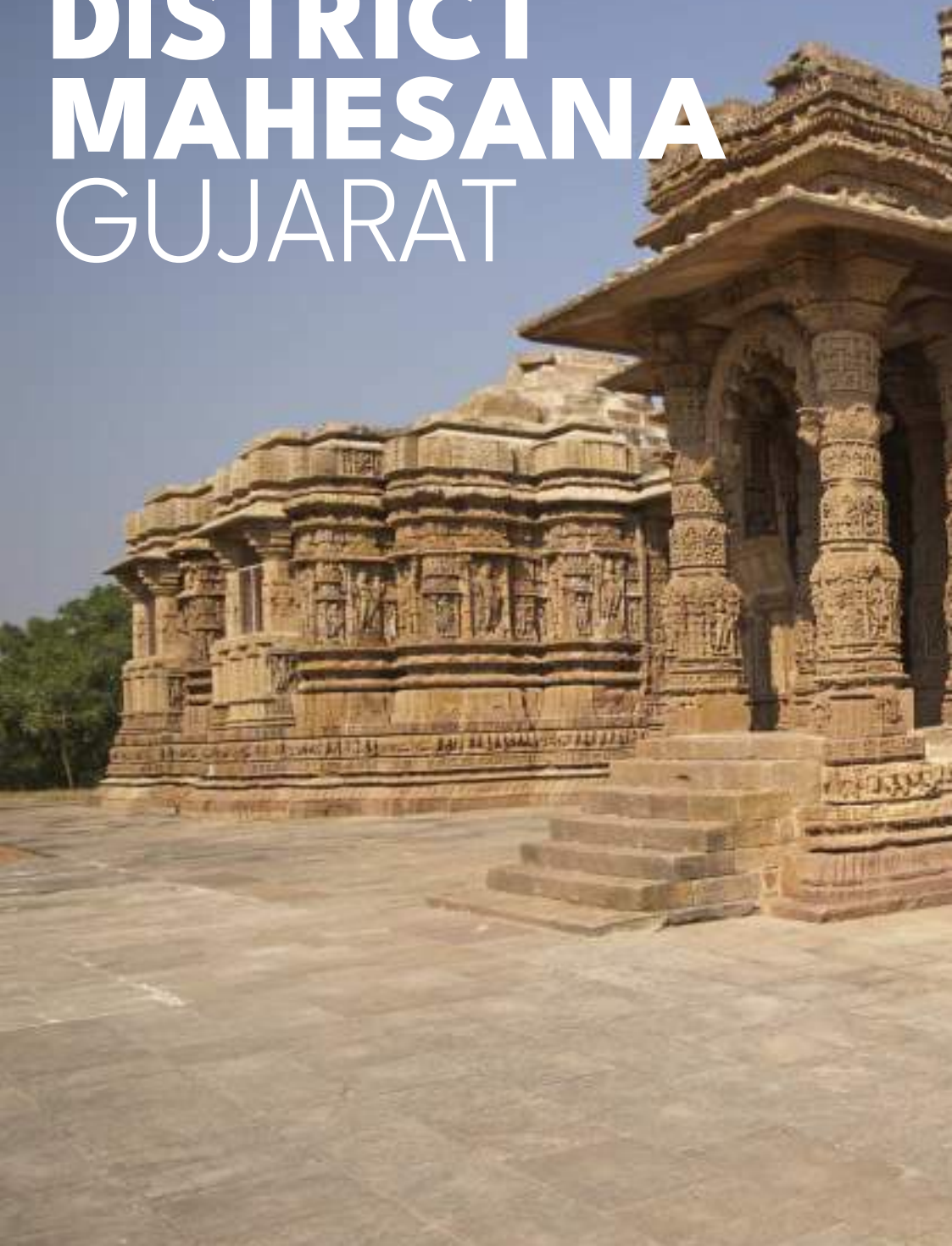
Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – Approximately 1327.27 Hectares under afforestation.

State Plans – Around 2843 Hectares plantation work under various state schemes since 2023.

Area under Special Projects/ Programmes including Externally Aided Project like GCP PROJECT

DISTRICT MAHESANA GUJARAT





Mahesana, also spelled Mehsana, is a prominent district located in the northern part of Gujarat. Established as a separate administrative district in 1964, Mahesana has emerged as a significant center of agriculture, dairy, and energy production in the state. The district headquarters is the city of Mehsana, which serves as a hub for commerce, governance, and education.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Mahesana district is situated in the northern region of Gujarat, India, lying between latitudes 23.5°N to 24.1°N and longitudes 71.2°E to 72.6°E. It is bounded by Banaskantha in the north, Sabarkantha and Gandhinagar in the east, Ahmedabad in the south, and Patan in the west. The district forms part of the semi-arid zone of Gujarat. The region falls within the catchment area of several seasonal rivers, including the Saraswati and Rupen, and is primarily dependent on canal irrigation and groundwater for agriculture. Its location within the transitional tract between the Rann of Kachchh and the Aravalli foothills influences both its ecological and climatic conditions.

Topography:

The topography of Mahesana is predominantly flat and forms part of the extensive alluvial plains of North Gujarat. The slopes are very gentle that facilitate surface water drainage. The soil is mostly sandy loam to clayey, supporting diverse cropping systems. Scattered low-lying areas occasionally create shallow depressions that can retain monsoon water, forming seasonal wetlands. The absence of significant hills or forested highlands gives Mahesana a uniform terrain, although areas near the Thol Lake and some parts of Vadnagar have slightly undulating features. This relatively even landscape has

contributed to extensive agricultural and infrastructure development across the district. The average elevation is around 75 to 125 meters above sea level.

Area:

The district spans an area of 4393 square kilometres

Climate:

Mahesana district experiences a hot semi-arid climate characterized by distinct seasonal variations. Summers, extending from March to June, are extremely hot and dry, with temperatures often soaring above 42°C. The monsoon season typically begins in late June and continues until September, bringing moderate but uneven rainfall. Winters, have temperatures ranging between 10°C and 25°C, and occasional cold waves. Due to its inland location and sparse forest cover, Mahesana also experiences considerable diurnal temperature variation.

Average annual rainfall is 600–800 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the Gujarat Forest Statistics Report 2023-24, the total forest area in the district is

71.52 sq.km

with

23.24 sq.km

Reserved Forest area and

48.28

unclassed forest. The district's forested areas are primarily classified as Reserved and Protected Forests. The total forest cover is approximately 1.6% of the district's geographical area.

Mahesana district does not host any national parks or wildlife sanctuaries within its administrative boundaries. Also no officially notified Conservation Reserves exist within Mahesana district.

The district boasts of Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary with 7 km. core area and an ESZ which extends to a distance of 5 kms.

This man-made freshwater reservoir serves as a significant bird habitat, attracting thousands of migratory birds

including flamingos, pelicans, sarus cranes, spoonbills, and various waterfowl species and is also a Ramsar convention site since 2022.

Wildlife:

Mahesana district supports a variety of wild flora and fauna, especially around wetland areas, agricultural margins, and open scrublands. The Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, in particular, is a biodiversity hotspot within the district, offering refuge to numerous species. The natural vegetation in Mahesana consists primarily of dry deciduous and thorny scrub forests, interspersed with grasslands and cultivated fields. Common plant species include *Prosopis juliflora* (Vilayati babool), *Acacia nilotica* (Babul), *Azadirachta indica* (Neem), *Capparis decidua* (Ker), *Calotropis procera* (Aankdo), *Ziziphus nummularia* (Ber), *Euphorbia* spp. Along canal and wetland margins, aquatic and semi-aquatic vegetation such as *Typha*, *Ipomoea*, and *Phragmites* are observed.

Mahesana district, despite its semi-arid climate, supports a diverse range of wild fauna, particularly in and around wetland ecosystems like Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. The district is renowned for its rich avian biodiversity, serving as a vital habitat for both resident and migratory birds. Species such as greater and lesser flamingos, sarus cranes, painted storks, ibises, herons, and various

species of ducks and waders are commonly observed, especially during the winter months. The open scrublands and agricultural landscapes are home to mammals like the nilgai (blue bull), Indian hare, jackal, Indian fox, and small Indian civet. Reptilian fauna includes species like the Indian cobra, Russell's viper, and monitor lizard, while seasonal ponds support amphibians such as common toads and tree frogs.

Water Bodies:

Mahesana district has a combination of natural and man-made water bodies that play a critical role in supporting agriculture, wildlife, and domestic water needs. While the district does not have large perennial rivers, it benefits from seasonal streams, reservoirs, check dams, and irrigation canals, many of which are linked to the Narmada Canal network. Notable water structures include Thol Lake, a man-made reservoir built in 1912 is a significant water body for irrigation purposes, Dharoi Dam backwaters (partially affecting Mehsana's eastern areas), and numerous ponds (talavs) in villages used for agriculture and livestock

Rivers:

The major rivers flowing through the district include the Rupen and Khari Rivers – seasonal rivers that traverse parts of the district, and Narmada Canal branches – which provide crucial irrigation support during dry spells.

Sacred Groves:

Notable sacred sites in Mahesana include Bhandu Village: Home to temples dedicated to Brahmani Mata, Varahi Mata, Devi Mata, Rushi Timba, and Dudheshwar Mahadev. The village also observes an annual festival on Dharo Atham/Bhadarava Sud Atham, Ucharpi Village: Features several temples such as Bhimnath Mahadev, Mahakali Mata, Sankatmochan Hanuman, Jahu Mata, Joganiya Mata, Verai Mata, and Sadhi Mata, reflecting the village's rich spiritual traditions,

Bhankhar Village: Hosts ancient temples dedicated to Agiya Vaital and Vishnu, alongside a Dargah of the Sayyed family, indicating a blend of religious practices, and

Chansol Village: Known for the Shebhar Gog Maharaj temple, located amidst the mountains, where a folk fair is held on the day of Sud Punam, attracting devotees from surrounding areas.

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

921 females for every
1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 28.5% of the population resides in urban areas, while 71.5% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

463 persons per sq.km.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

As per the 2011 Census, Mahesana district has a population of approx.

2,035,064,

comprising

1,059,278 males

975,786 females



ECONOMY

Agriculture forms the backbone of Mahesana's economy, employing a majority of the district's population. The fertile alluvial plains and access to canal irrigation (especially from the Narmada Canal) support the cultivation of a variety of crops. Major crops include Wheat, bajra (pearl millet), jowar (sorghum), maize, Cotton and castor are widely grown, with castor being one of the district's key commercial crops, Groundnut and mustard are also significant. Cultivation of vegetables like onions and fruits such as mangoes contributes to the local economy.

Farmers in Mahesana depend both on monsoon rains and irrigation sources. Mahesana has a well-established industrial sector, with a focus on agro-based and textile industries, alongside small- and medium-scale manufacturing units. Key industrial features include

Oil extraction and processing:

Mahesana is known for castor oil extraction units.

Textile and garment industry:

Presence of weaving units, processing mills, and garment manufacturing contributes to employment.

Dairy industry: The district is a part of Gujarat's renowned dairy network, with many cooperative milk societies contributing to the

local economy. It is also home to the famed Dudhsagar Dairy, one of Asia's largest milk processing cooperatives, playing a pivotal role in the White Revolution.

Small-scale manufacturing: Includes production of chemicals, plastics, and metal goods.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

84.3%

with male literacy of 91.8% and female literacy of 76.3%

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Mahesana (also spelled Mehsana) is not just an economic hub of North Gujarat, but also a district rich in cultural heritage, religious landmarks, and natural beauty. It offers a variety of tourist attractions that reflect the region's historical, architectural, and spiritual significance.

Religious & Historical Sites

Modhera Sun Temple, located about 25 km from Mahesana city is renowned for its exquisite architecture and intricate carvings and is a protected monument

Bahuchar Mata Temple,

Becharaji, one of Gujarat's most prominent Shaktipeeths, this temple draws thousands of devotees annually. It is also a key site for cultural festivals and fairs. Rudra Mahalaya Temple, Siddhpur, a historic site with remains of a 12th-century Shiva temple built during the Solanki period.

Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple,

Vadnagar, this ancient Shiva temple is significant both religiously and architecturally, showcasing the craftsmanship of earlier eras.

Umiya Mata Temple,

Unjha, Umiya Mata Temple is a Hindu temple of the goddess Umiya, the clan-deity or kuldevi of the Kadava Patidars.

Taranga Jain temple, Mahesana a significant Jain pilgrimage site, has a rich history intertwined with the region's Buddhist and Jain traditions. It's known for its beautiful temples, particularly the Ajitnath temple, constructed in 1161 by the Solanki king Kumarapala, under the guidance of his teacher, Acharya Hemachandra.

Nature and Wildlife


Thol Lake Bird Sanctuary, situated about 40 km from Mahesana city, this artificial lake is a haven for migratory birds and a Ramsar Site.

Shanku's Water Park, located near Mehsana, it is one of Gujarat's largest water parks and a family-friendly


recreational destination. The adjacent Shanku's Health Retreat also attracts wellness tourists.

Dharoi Dam Located in Mehsana district, near Dharoi village, it was completed in 1978. It's known for its irrigation, power generation, and flood control functions. The dam is also being developed as a sustainable tourism hub, attracting visitors for its serene beauty and potential for adventure activities.

Ongoing Interventions:

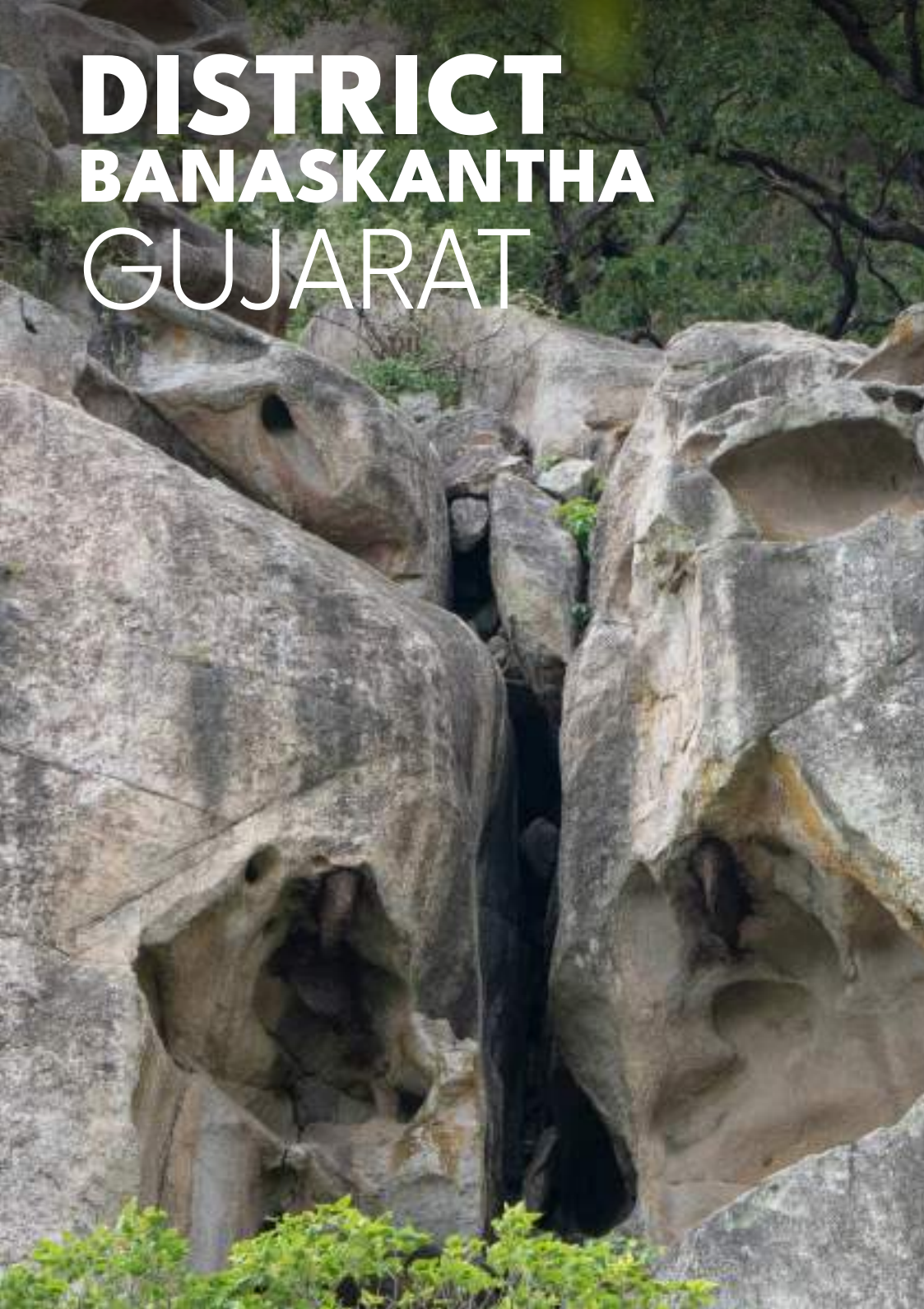
- 
- CAMPA – 557.84
 - State Plans –2609 hectares
 - Nagar Van Yojana – NA
 - Under Externally Aided Project – NA.


Challenges:

- 
- Water scarcity and increasing climate variability, such as delayed monsoons and erratic rainfall, have emerged as key environmental concerns for the district.
 - Land degradation and Soil Erosion is another challenge



DISTRICT BANASKANTHA GUJARAT





Banaskantha is one among the thirty-three districts of the Gujarat state of India. The district derives its name from the West Banas River, which flows through the valley between Mount Abu and the Aravalli Range. The administrative headquarters of the district is at Palanpur which is also its largest city. The district is located in the Northeast of Gujarat and is presumably named after the West Banas River which runs through the valley between Mount Abu and Aravalli Range, flowing to the plains of Gujarat in this region and towards the Rann of Kutch. The district is famous for the Ambaji temple which draw many tourists.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

The District is situated between 23.33 to 24.45 N latitude and 72.15 to 73.87 E longitude. The district is located in the Northeast of Gujarat and named after the West Banas River, which runs through the valley between Mount Abu and Aravalli Range, flowing to the plains of Gujarat in this region and towards the Rann of Kutch. Geographically Banaskantha shares its borders with Rajasthan state in the North, Sabarkantha district in East, Kutch district in West and Patan district and Mehsana district in the South. Border of Pakistan touches the desert. Strategically, Banaskantha District is of much importance because of its sensitive borders.

Topography:

Banaskantha district exhibits a diverse topography comprising three main regions: the rugged, forested Aravalli hills in the north and northeast; the fertile alluvial plains in the central zone; and the semi-arid lowlands in the south and southwest. The Aravalli range, extending into the district from Rajasthan, features elevations up to 1,000 meters and supports wildlife habitats like the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife

Sanctuary. Central Banaskantha, enriched by alluvial deposits from the West Banas River, supports intensive agriculture, particularly in areas like Palanpur and Deesa. The southern parts are characterized by flat, drought-prone terrain with sandy and saline soils, making them more vulnerable to land degradation.

Area:

The district spans an area of 10743 sq.kms as per Census 2011.

Climate:

The climate of Mahesana (Mehsana) district in northern Gujarat is semi-arid to dry sub-humid, characterized by hot summers, mild winters, and a short monsoon season. The summers (March to June) are long and intensely hot, with temperatures often exceeding 42°C, especially in May. The southwest monsoon arrives around mid-June and continues until September. Rainfall is often uneven and erratic, making agriculture vulnerable to drought. Winters (November to February) are mild and pleasant.

Average annual rainfall is 600–700 mm



FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES



As per the Gujarat Forest Statistics Report 2023-24, the total forest area in the district is

1107.26 sq.km

with

519.99 sq.km

Reserved Forest area and

13.32 sq.km

Protected Area and

573.95

unclassified forest.

The district's forested areas are primarily classified as Protected Forests. The total forest cover is approximately

10.30%

of the district's geographical area

There are currently no National Parks in Banaskantha district. Balaram Ambaji Wild Life Sanctuary and Jessore Sloth bear Wildlife Sanctuary are the two sanctuaries in the district. Two Eco sensitive zones have been declared around Balaram Ambaji Wild Life Sanctuary (0.0 KM to 3.519 KM) and Jessore Sloth bear Wildlife Sanctuary (0.0 KM to 3.2 KM). Banaskantha district has no officially declared conservation reserve as on date.

Wildlife:

Mahesana district supports a The wild flora of the district is dominated by dry deciduous and thorn scrub vegetation, including species such as teak, khair (*Acacia catechu*), ber (*Ziziphus*), and neem (*Azadirachta indica*). These habitats support a rich variety of fauna, including flagship species like the sloth bear, leopard, striped hyena, nilgai, jungle cat, and Indian fox. The area also harbors reptiles such as monitor lizards and snakes, along with over 150 bird species, including peafowl, partridges, and various raptors. Banaskantha a critical wildlife corridor between Rajasthan and Gujarat because of its ecological richness and its cultural landscapes.

Water Bodies:

Major Water bodies include Dantiwada Dam, Mukteshwar Dam, Sipu Dam besides locally made check dams, ponds and village tanks (locally called talavs).

Rivers:

West Banas river is the most important river in the district along with its tributaries Sipu, Balaram and Sukhala.

Sacred Groves:

Commonly linked to deities like Balaram Mahadev, Bhavani Mata, Hinglaj Mata, and various local spirits. Notable sacred sites in the district include Balaram Mahadev, Ambaji Area (Gabbar Hill), and villages near Jessore Hills.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: As per the 2011 Census, Banaskantha district has a population of approx.

3,120,506

comprising

1,611,700 males

1,508,800 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

936 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 14.8% of the population resides in urban areas, while 85.2% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

290 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

Banaskantha's economy is predominantly agricultural. It is Gujarat's largest producer of vegetables, particularly potatoes, with Deesa Taluka leading in production.

Banaskantha is the largest producer of vegetables in Gujarat, with potato being the main crop. Some other crops include tobacco, castor oil, bajri and psyllium.

Banaskantha district is the third largest producer of oil seeds in the State after Junagadh and Jamnagar. Bajra, Maize, Tobacco, Castor oil, Jowar, Psyllium and Potatoes are the other major crops of the district.

Deesa Taluka in the Banaskantha district ranks first in India for the production of Potatoes. The district ranks next to Junagadh and Rajkot in the production of Spices. The other spices produced in the district are Isabgul, Fennel, Fenugreek and Cumin.

The district is also home to Banas Dairy, Asia's largest milk producer, which collects an average of around 5 million liters of milk daily.

Additionally, Banaskantha has industries in food processing, textiles, and ceramics, and is rich in marble reserves, offering potential for the ceramic industry

The Palanpur city in the district of Banakantha saw the origin of India's diamond industry and it continues to be one of the most important cities of Gujarat.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

66.4%

with male literacy of 77.4% and female literacy of 54.4%

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Ambaji Temple, is one of the most famous Shakti Peethas in India, and is located on the Aravalli hills near Ambaji town. Scenic hills and dense forests of the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary surround the temple complex.

Balaram Palace and Wildlife Sanctuary, is rich in biodiversity with species like leopards, sloth bears and diverse species of birds. Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary, focused on protecting the sloth bear.

Palanpur, known for its historical forts and havelis, the local bazaars are famous for handicrafts and traditional textiles.

Danta is a gateway to the Aravalli hills and tribal areas and offers

trekking, bird watching and visits to local temples.

Dantiwada Dam and Lake and Mukteshwar Dam are large reservoirs and is popular for picnics, fishing and birdwatching

Cultural and Tribal Tourism- The tribal belts of Banaskantha (Bhil, Garasia communities) offer unique ethnic crafts, dances, and festivals.

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – Approximately 2542.52 hectares under afforestation since 2015.

State Plans – Around 6297 hectares planted under various state schemes since 2023.

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided Project – NA.

Challenges:

Water scarcity and increasing climate variability, such as delayed monsoons and erratic rainfall, have emerged as key environmental concerns for the district.

Land degradation

Drought and Soil Erosion is another challenge

DISTRICT SABARKANTHA GUJARAT





Aravalli district, located in the northeastern part of Gujarat, India, was established on August 15, 2013, as the 29th district of the state. It was carved out from the Sabarkantha district and is named after the Aravalli Hills that traverse the region. The district headquarters is situated in Modasa.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries

Sabarkantha is situated in the northeastern part of Gujarat state, India. It borders the state of Rajasthan to the north and east, and other Gujarat districts like Aravalli (south), Gandhinagar (southwest), and Patan (west). Sabarkantha District is surrounded by Rajasthan state to the northeast, Banaskantha and Mehsana districts to the west, Gandhinagar to the south and Aravalli District to the South – East. Sabarmati River flows on western border of Sabarkantha district. The district is situated between 23.03 N latitude and 24.30 N latitude & 74.43 E longitudes to 73.39 E longitudes. The “Tropic of Cancer” passes through Sabarkantha district.

Topography

Aravalli hill ranges running through its northern and eastern regions, creating a rugged and hilly landscape, mark Sabarkantha district's topography. These hills give way to gently rolling plains and fertile river valleys carved by the Sabarmati River and its tributaries. The district's elevation varies, with higher altitudes in the hills and lower flatlands in the south and west. This diverse terrain supports a mix of dry deciduous forests on the hills and extensive agricultural lands in the plains, making the district geographically varied and ecologically rich. The average elevation is around 200 to 600 meters above sea level.



Area:

The district spans an area of 5390 square kilometres

Climate:

Sabarkantha experiences a semi-arid to sub-tropical climate with hot summers, moderate monsoon rainfall, and mild winters. Summers (March to June) are typically hot and dry, with temperatures often rising above 40°C. The monsoon season (July to September) brings moderate rainfall, which supports agriculture. Winters (November to February) are mild and pleasant, with temperatures ranging between 10°C to 25°C. The district's climate supports dry deciduous forests and mainly rain-fed agriculture.

Average annual rainfall is 700 to 900 mm

FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the Gujarat Forest Statistics Report 2023-24, the total forest area in the district is

815.13 sq.km

with

478.48 sq.km

Reserved Forest area and

0.16 sq.km

Protected Area and

336.49

unclassified forest.

The district's forested areas are primarily classified as Protected Forests.

Sabarkantha district does not have any national parks or conservation reserve within its administrative boundaries. Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary extends into the district around which some area is demarcated as ESZ.

Wildlife:

Sabarkantha district boasts a rich diversity of wild flora and fauna, primarily shaped by its Aravalli hill ranges and dry deciduous forests. The vegetation is dominated by hardy species like teak, babool (Acacia), neem, dhok, and khair, adapted to the semi-arid climate. The Agario Dungar provides habitat to the Himalayan Vulture.

The Indian Giant flying squirrel was scene in Polo Forest.

These forests provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including sloth bears, leopards, jungle cats, Indian foxes, and several species of deer.

The region is also home to numerous bird species such as peafowl, partridges, and various migratory birds. The district's mix of rugged hills and riverine areas supports rich biodiversity, making it an important ecological zone in northern Gujarat.

Rivers:

The Sabarmati River, which originates in the Aravalli hills within the district, is the primary river flowing through Sabarkantha, providing vital water resources for irrigation and drinking. Tributaries like the Hathamati River Wakal River plays significant role and seasonal streams crisscross the landscape

Sacred Groves:

In Sabarkantha district, sacred groves are integral to the cultural and ecological landscape, particularly in tribal regions like Poshina and Khedbrahma taluka. These groves are small forest patches preserved by local communities due to religious beliefs and practices

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: As per the 2011 Census, Aravalli district has a population of approx.

2,428,589

comprising

1,243,000 males

1,185,000 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

954 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 14.98% of the population resides in urban areas, while 85.02% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

380 persons per sq.km.

ECONOMY

Agriculture is the primary livelihood in Sabarkantha district, with most residents engaged in farming. The region's semi-arid climate supports the cultivation of food grains like maize, wheat, bajra, and pulses such as tur and moong.

Groundnut and castor are the main oilseeds grown, while cash crops like cotton and tobacco are cultivated on a smaller scale.

Irrigation is mainly dependent on the Sabarmati River, wells, and check dams, but monsoon rains remain crucial. Horticulture, including mango cultivation, is gradually gaining importance in certain areas.

Punsari, a small village in the district was selected as the best village in Gujarat.

Sabarkantha's industrial sector is largely agro-based and dominated by small and medium enterprises.

Traditional textile and handloom industries thrive in towns like Himatnagar, alongside dairy and food processing units supported by the region's strong animal husbandry.

There are manufacturing units also for ceramics, cement, and engineering goods. Industrial clusters and cottage industries focused on handicrafts and tribal arts, also contribute to the local economy.

Sabarkantha district has deposits of mica, quartz, feldspar, and building stones such as granite.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

84.58%

with male literacy of 91.18% and female literacy of 77.59%

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

Sabarkantha district offers a blend of natural beauty, historical landmarks, and spiritual sites that attract both domestic and international tourists.

The Polo Forest near Vijaynagar is a major eco-tourism destination, known for its lush greenery, ancient Jain and Hindu temple ruins, and trekking trails nestled in the Aravalli hills.

Idar is famous for its striking granite rock formations, forts, and the scenic Idar Gadh Fort, offering panoramic views and a glimpse into Rajput architecture.

The town of **Khedbrahma** is revered as a pilgrimage site, especially for the Brahmagi Temple, which draws large crowds during religious festivals.

Himatnagar, the district headquarters, showcases historical structures like Daulat Vilas Palace and Stepwells, and is also known for traditional wooden toys and handicrafts.

The Chitra Vichitra Mela is a significant tribal festival held annually in Gunbhakhri village, located in the Sabarkantha district of Gujarat, near the Rajasthan border. This unique fair is celebrated fortnight after Holi, around the new moon night (Amavasya), typically in March or April.

Water Ville Water Park, located in Himmatnagar city, it is one of Gujarat's largest water parks and a family-friendly recreational destination.

Tropic of Cancer Science Park is established in 2021 in Salal near Prantij to educate the public about the significance of Tropic of Cancer and to promote scientific awareness.

The Vanaj Dam in Vijaynagar taluka is a major tourist spot near Polo Forest.

Challenges:

Water scarcity and increasing climate variability, such as delayed monsoons and erratic rainfall, have emerged as key environmental concerns for the district.

Land degradation and Soil Erosion is another challenge

Ongoing Interventions:

CAMPA – Approximately 3447.84 Hectares under afforestation since 2019.

State Plans – Around 5082 Hectares plantation work under various state schemes since 2023

Area under Special Projects/ Programmes including Externally Aided Project like GCP PROJECT Year 2024-25, 164 Hectare plantation.

PERG Project: Under JICA project 1250 Hectares plantation is to be done in Year 2025-26.

Nagar Van Yojana – NA

Under Externally Aided Project – NA








NCT OF DELHI

DISTRICT SOUTH

GOVERNMENT OF
NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
OF DELHI





South Delhi is one of the 11 administrative districts of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, India. Known for its affluent neighbourhoods, heritage sites, and commercial hubs, South Delhi is a prominent part of the capital both in terms of infrastructure and demographics.

Geographical Overview

Location & Boundaries:

South Delhi district is located in the southern part of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and shares its boundaries with South East Delhi to the east, South West Delhi to the west, and the state of Haryana (Faridabad district) to the south and Gurgaon district in the South west. The district is traversed by several arterial roads including the Outer Ring Road and Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, and is well integrated into the broader urban framework of Delhi. South Delhi also lies close to the Yamuna River on its eastern fringe, although the river does not significantly influence the district's urban fabric compared to other parts of Delhi. The district spans across a latitudinal range of approximately 28.45° N to 28.60° N and a longitudinal range of 77.10° E to 77.25° E, covering a diverse urban and semi-urban landscape and Urban fringes.

Area:

The district spans an area of 247 square kilometres (as per ISFR 2023)

Topography:

The topography of South Delhi is marked by a combination of urban plains and remnants of the Aravalli Hills, one of the oldest mountain ranges in India. The terrain is gently undulating, with rocky outcrops and ridges particularly visible around Mehrauli and the Ridge areas. These features contribute to the district's varied elevation (Most of the Part of Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary lie on higher elevation as compare to whole parts of Delhi) and support patches of forest cover, such as those found in the Sanjay Van and Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary (partly extending into adjoining

districts). The natural ridge acts as an important ecological barrier and provides limited green relief in an otherwise densely built urban environment. Soils in the region are primarily alluvial with some rocky patches. Unconsolidated micaceous rocks and dry sandy and loamy type soil (Kalpavriksh-Page No. 4) (Aditya Arora , Pallava Bagla , Nandita Hazarika , Ashish Kothari , Ranjit Lal , Subhadra and Ghazala Shahabuddin, 1991), influencing both vegetation and land use patterns.

The average elevation is around 216 meters above sea level.

The average elevation is around 200-400 meters above sea level.

Climate:

South Delhi experiences an extreme subtropical climate, classified as humid subtropical (Cwa) under the Köppen climate classification. It is characterized by hot summers, a monsoon season, and cool winters, with significant variations in temperature and humidity throughout the year.

The southwest monsoon brings most of the district's annual rainfall. Humidity rises sharply, and temperatures become more moderate, usually ranging between 25°C and 35°C.

Average annual rainfall is 600-800 mm



FOREST & NATURAL RESOURCES

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, South Delhi stands out as the greenest district in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, the total forest area in the district is

70.89 sq.km

which is approximately

44.58%

of the district's geographical area. Contributes to Delhi's overall green cover, which totals

371.3 sq km

representing

25%

of the city's geographical area.

South Delhi district does not host any national parks or conservation reserves within its administrative boundaries. However it has following protected areas and biodiversity parks

Asola Bhati Wildlife Sanctuary (32.71 sq.km) which also has an ESZ

Aravalli Biodiversity Park

Sanjay Van and

Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park.

Wildlife:

The natural vegetation mainly consists of tropical thorn forests and dry deciduous scrub typical of the Aravalli region. Common tree species include Dhau (*Anogeissus pendula*), Kikar (*Vachellia nilotica*), Babool, Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), Neem, and Palash. The understory features shrubs and climbers such as Karonda and *Jatropha*, along with grasses like Lemon grass and Kans grass. Mammals such as Indian leopard, Indian hare, Indian crested porcupine, small Indian civet, jungle cat, and nilgai inhabit forested areas like Asola Bhatti. Birdlife is abundant with over 200 species recorded, including peafowl, black kite, shikra, Indian eagle owl, drongos, bulbuls, parakeets, and various migratory species during winter. The reptile population includes monitor lizards, Indian cobra, rat snake, and common krait, while amphibians like Indian bullfrog also thrive in suitable habitats. Additionally, numerous insects and pollinators such as butterflies, bees, beetles, and dragonflies contribute to the ecosystem's health.

Water Bodies:

Some prominent water bodies include the Hauz Khas Lake, a historic water reservoir built during the Sultanate period, which now serves as a key recreational spot as well as a habitat for aquatic birds and biodiversity. Similarly, the Malviya Nagar lake and smaller ponds in areas like Saket and Mehrauli provide seasonal habitats for migratory birds and contribute

to local groundwater recharge and Neeli Jheel, located within the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, is a serene lake known for its crystal-clear waters and tranquil environment. It serves as a valuable resource for several reasons: birdwatching, nature walks, and eco-tourism development. The lake's pristine beauty and relatively untouched environment offer a refreshing escape from the city's noise and pollution.

Sacred Groves:

One of the prominent sacred groves in South Delhi is around the Mehrauli area, where the forest patches of the Delhi Ridge are traditionally considered sacred by local communities. These groves are often linked to ancient temples and are protected from logging and development due to religious beliefs. The Sanjay Van (ram Talab Mandir) a large forested area near Mehrauli and Vasant Kunj, also functions partially as a sacred grove, harboring old trees and biodiversity preserved through customary reverence.

Rivers:

None.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population:

Population: As per the 2011 Census, Aravalli district has a population of approx.

2,730,000,

comprising

1,460,000 males

1,270,000 females

Sex Ratio:

The district has a sex ratio of:

868 females for every

1,000 males

Urban vs. Rural:

Approximately 95% of the population resides in urban areas, while 5% live in rural regions.

Population Density:

The population density stands at

10,920 persons per sq.km.

Religious Composition:

The majority religion is Hinduism, followed by Islam.

ECONOMY

South Delhi is among the wealthiest districts of Delhi, featuring high per capita income, better infrastructure, and higher Human Development Index (HDI) scores

compared to other districts. It houses many upscale localities like Greater Kailash, Hauz Khas, and Vasant Vihar.

Agriculture and manufacturing are negligible in South Delhi due to urbanization, but the district plays a crucial role in the overall economy of Delhi by supporting commerce, trade, and services.

Key economic activities include retail trade, real estate, hospitality, information technology, finance, and professional services. South Delhi's markets, such as Connaught Place (nearby Central Delhi but economically linked), Hauz Khas Village, Saket, and Greater Kailash, attract both locals and tourists, contributing significantly to the retail and entertainment sectors.

literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate is:

86.57%

with male literacy of 91.73%
and female literacy of 80.55%

TOURISM & PLACES OF INTEREST

South Delhi is renowned for its blend of historical heritage, cultural landmarks, lush green spaces, and vibrant urban life,



making it a major destination for tourists and locals alike. The district is dotted with numerous ancient monuments, religious sites, museums, and bustling markets that reflect Delhi's rich past and cosmopolitan present.

Notable places include-

Qutub Minar Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring the towering 73-meter Qutub Minar, ancient ruins, and intricately carved Islamic architecture dating back to the 12th century.

Mehrauli Archaeological Park offers a sprawling area filled with tombs, mosques, step wells, and other relics from the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal eras.

Humayun's Tomb in Nizamuddin, which inspired the architectural style later seen in the Taj Mahal. The beautifully landscaped gardens surrounding the tomb provide a serene escape from the city's bustle.

Lotus Temple, an iconic Bahá'í House of Worship shaped like a lotus flower, drawing visitors for its peaceful ambiance and unique design.

Iskcon Temple: ISKCON Delhi is also known as Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir, a well-known Vaishnav temple of Lord Krishna and Radharani. It was inaugurated on 5 April 1998 by the former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is situated at Hare Krishna Hills, Sant Nagar, East of Kailash area, South Delhi, India

Sanjay Van, and Aravalli Biodiversity Park, which showcases the native flora and fauna of the region.

The Garden of Five Senses in Saidul Ajaib combines art, nature, and cultural installations in a beautifully landscaped setting.

Vibrant markets like **Hauz Khas Village**, known for its trendy cafes, art galleries, boutiques, and nightlife, blending history with contemporary culture.

Dilli Haat, an open-air market, offers crafts, cuisine, and cultural performances from across India, making it a popular spot for tourists seeking traditional arts and food.

Chhatarpur Temple—one of the largest temple complexes in India—and various historic mosques and gurudwaras add to South Delhi's spiritual landscape.

Sunder Nurcery - Sunder Nursery is flanked by the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb (Above) on the South and the historic Purana Qila (Below) on the North and aligned to the historic Grand Trunk Road on the West. It was originally established in

the early 20th century when the Imperial Delhi complex was being planned and constructed. It was used as a place for propagating trees and other plants to be used in the new capital city, and also for testing species brought from other parts of India and from overseas, to pick those which successfully thrive in Delhi's harsh climate.

Ongoing Interventions:

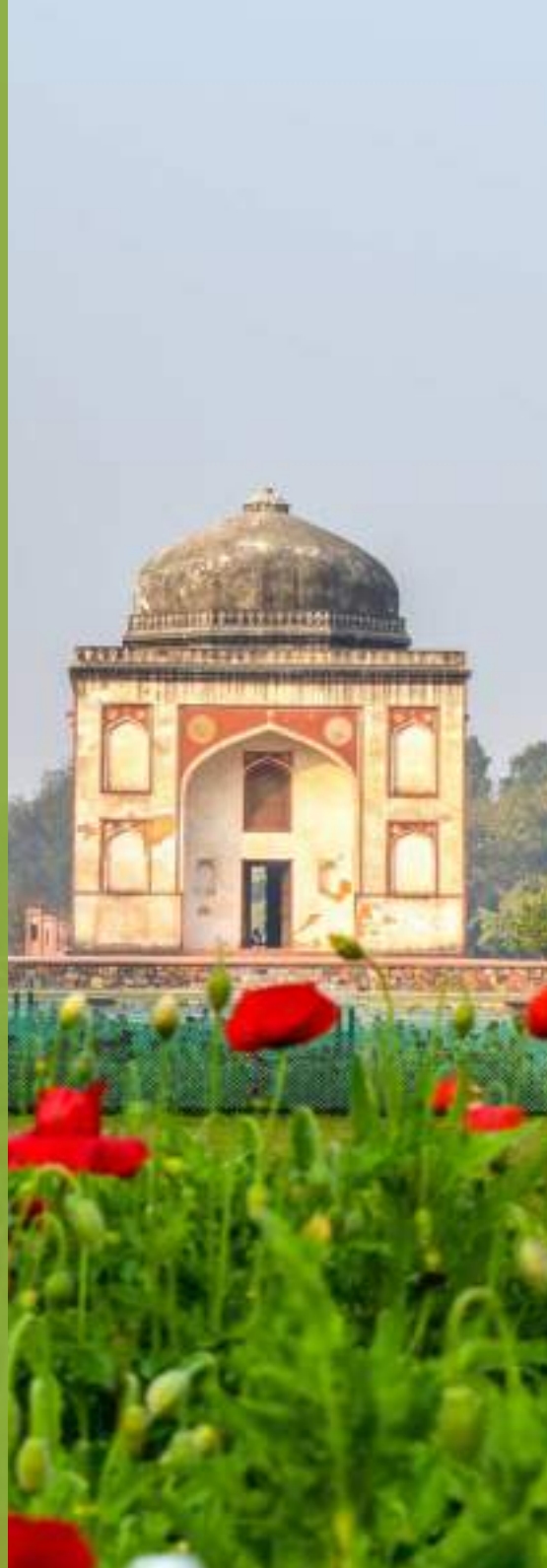
- Ongoing plantation interventions in South Delhi collectively cover approximately 350-450 hectares, which include 70-100 hectares in Aravalli Biodiversity Park in South Delhi
- State Plans – around 200-300 hectares
- Nagar Van Yojana – NA
- Under Externally Aided Project – NA.
- Urban Plantation Campaigns covering 50-100 hectares each year.
- Community and NGO-led Drives, across an estimated 30-50 hectares.

Ongoing Interventions:

Water scarcity and increasing climate variability, such as delayed monsoons and erratic rainfall, have emerged as key environmental concerns for the district.

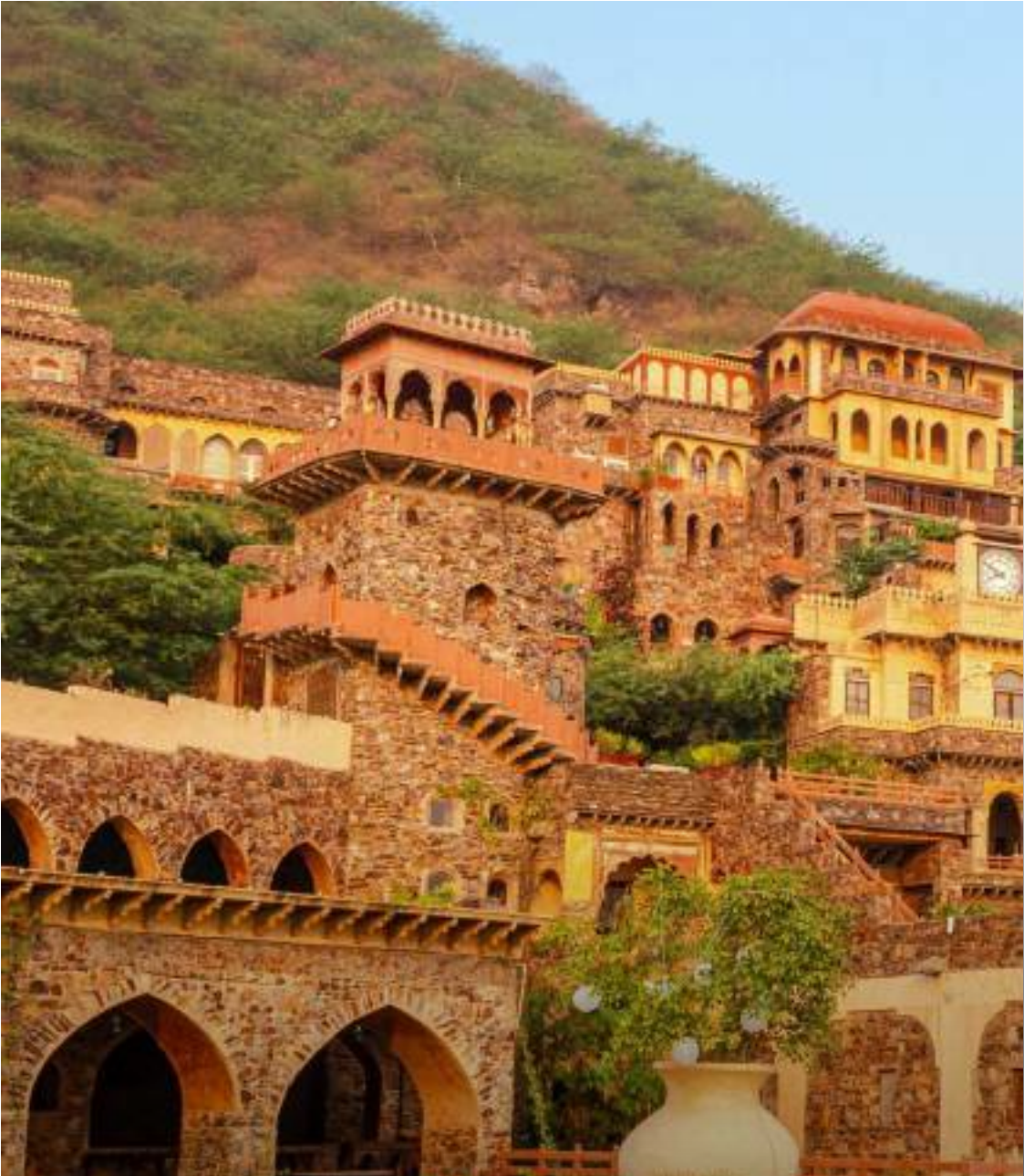
Land degradation and Soil Erosion is another challenge

Haphazard changes in land use pose major challenges to the sustainable development of these districts. Unplanned settlements lead to issues like the lack of basic public amenities, including social and physical infrastructure. Undulated slopes cause choking and flash flooding in many places of South districts









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