



Grassroots Gazette

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022



MGNF

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship



NEWSLETTER
FIRST EDITION

MESSAGE ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri. Narendra Modi
PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Today India stands strong as the leader in the youth workforce and skill development opens the doors to embrace the world. To harness the strength of this demographic dividend the mission of "Skill Development" must be in the heart of Development plans for the country. The millions of skilled youths would drive the country forward. Institutionalizing Skill Development at district level would brighten the horizon of the future of the youth in this country. It is my dream to accomplish a bright skilled India in forefront of the world, and through the rapid pace of skill development I want to accomplish it for my brothers and sisters in the country.

Message from the Hon'ble Union Minister, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship



Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
SKILL DEVELOPMENT &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE, GoI), though a new ministry has been actively working towards achieving the Hon'ble PM's dream of a Skilled India leading the world. The SANKALP scheme is a road map to strengthen the skill development decentralized to district level to integrate that dream from the grassroots level. The MGNFs posted in the districts to support the districts in institutionalizing the skill development and implement the policies of National Education and National Skill Development are planning to get the best out of the youths across the country, and this Grassroots Gazette presents their fresh perspectives, success stories, along with constructive ideas from the field.



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ABOUT

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship



A premier national fellowship programme fully funded by MSDE to strengthen the ecosystem of decentralized skill development governance. As part of SANKALP, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a two-year academic programme which combines classroom sessions at IIM with intensive field immersion at the district level. The primary purpose behind instituting the MGNF programme is to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs). The Fellows would acquire academic expertise and technical competency in understanding the overall skill ecosystem and help the District Skill Committee's (DSCs) to manage skill development planning at the district level by formulating District Skill Development Plans (DSDPs). MSDE launched the Phase-II of MGNF programme with 9 IIMs namely IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Lucknow, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Visakhapatnam, IIM-Udaipur, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi and IIM-Jammu as Academic Partners on 13th February 2021 in the august presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and other dignitaries.



ABOUT

IIM-Jammu Partnership



The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) Program, Phase-II was launched on 25th October 2021. It is a Certificate Program in Public Policy and Management offered by IIMs in association with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India (GoI) and implemented in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs). IIM, Jammu currently has 48 active fellows across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh and West Bengal. The fellows attended several classroom sessions under their first Academic Module, which spanned over a period of two weeks from 26th October to 6th November. Topics covered in the

sessions were curated to be multidisciplinary in nature to encourage divergent thinking in achieving unique solutions to challenges that may arise during the field immersion. Furthermore, to provide a comprehensive overview of the district and the workings of the district administration, sessions were arranged with government officials. Apart from regular classroom sessions, the fellows also participated in an interactive workshop tasked with creating district profiles using principles of Design Thinking. During the course of the District Immersion Module-I, the fellows shall undertake activities that position them at the forefront of their respective district skill ecosystem.



LET'S HEAR

Message from the Director



The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship is a two year program that seeks to combine an accelerated academic training offered by 9 IIMs (IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Bangalore, IIM Jammu, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Lancashire, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi, IIM Udaipur and IIM Visakhapatnam) with intensive field work at district level towards improving the local skill ecosystem, that promotes livelihood and economic output. The project has been conceived by MSDE under SANKALP and has been successfully implemented in collaboration with IIMs. Seeing the launch edition of the Grassroots Gazette, Newsletter of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship-IIM Jammu Cohort gives me immense pleasure. Since its inception, IIM Jammu has given high importance to skill development and entrepreneurship, as both are essential for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. While we strive to contribute in this direction as an institute of National Importance, this fellowship paves a way forward to ascertain and connect with the ground realities. The motivation behind this newsletter came from the need to archive the unique experiences and perspectives of the stakeholders at the grassroots level. I am sure that with the passage of time, our fellows will have many interesting and diverse insights garnered from multiple stakeholders of their respective districts. I take this opportunity to congratulate the entire team of MGNF, especially the Program Directors along with the State Resource Associates, MSDE officials, district officials and faculty mentors of IIM Jammu, for their enduring support and successful launch of the fellowship. My best wishes to all the fellows in their journey ahead, and I hope they shall prove to be pivotal in bringing forth transformative developments instilled with Gandhian values of holistic and multidimensional upliftment of communities.

Prof. B. S. Sahay

DIRECTOR, IIM JAMMU

LET'S HEAR

Message from the Programme Directors



MGNF is a unique public policy programme that aims to bridge the gap between research and practice. The core objective of this fellowship is to train a batch of individuals who shall strive towards evolving a dynamic paradigm for evidence-based policymaking. Under, IIM-J, districts of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, West Bengal and Puducherry have been anointed. The fellows will be instrumental in promoting and strengthening the skill ecosystem at the district level. The challenges ahead involve not only the barriers to skill development and employment but also establishing a decentralized mode of governance. Since only then the true Gandhian spirit of a bottom-up approach to development is attainable, aiming to empower the lowest strata of society. Through mentorship support from both the IIM and the District Administration, the fellows shall explore and aid in creating niche opportunities for employment and sustainable livelihoods that address the uniqueness of their districts.

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Prof. Jabir Ali
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, MGNF

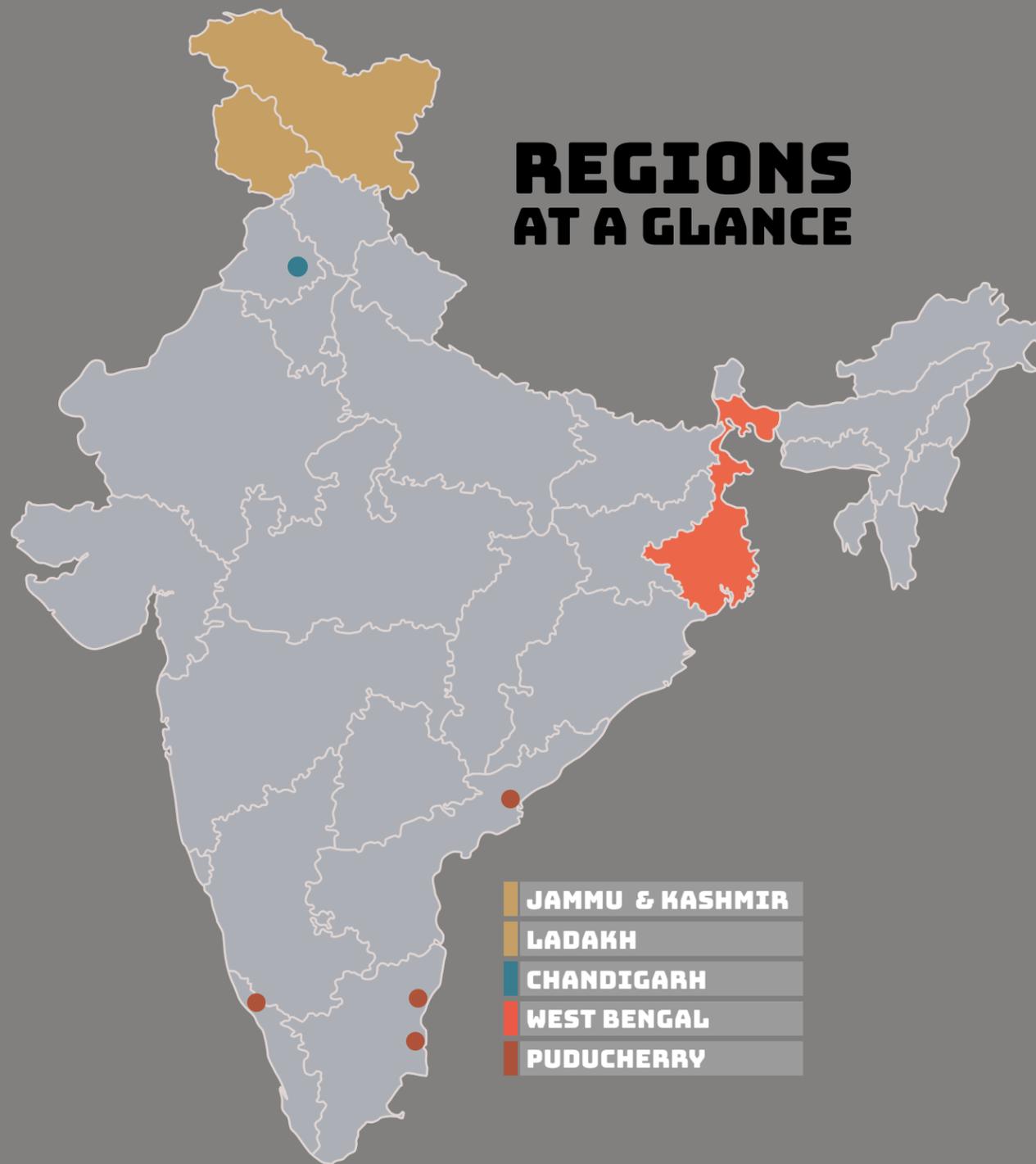
LET'S HEAR

Message from the Programme Directors



It gives me immense pleasure to see our MGNF fellows conceive and execute the idea of a newsletter. Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship under SANKALP by MSDE is among the notable public policy programmes, bringing IIMs in partnership with the MSDE. The programme aims to improve the skill ecosystem of the country from a bottom-up approach, with the districts being the focal point for policy interventions. This newsletter will be a medium to showcase the various activities that our MGNF fellows engage in during their district immersion. Sharing diverse experiences of their districts will motivate the replication of best practices. I am sure that their collective efforts in bringing cohesion not only at the state/UT level but also across the state/UT will help the fellows grow over this period of time. An improved skill ecosystem is essential in inculcating the youth's entrepreneurial zeal and the nation's economic development. While many places in J&K, West Bengal, Puducherry, Ladakh and Chandigarh present typical developmental challenges, our MGNF fellows have shown tremendous conviction and strength in handling them. I am sure that with more experience in their respective districts, our fellows will significantly contribute to the planned direction of improving the skill ecosystem at their district and state/UT level. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the fellows, our SRCs and Prof. Jabir Ali, for all their efforts in coordinating and channelling their energy in the right direction. I would also thank MSDE for their constant support and guidance in executing the fellowship and showing confidence in IIM Jammu to deliver this vital project.

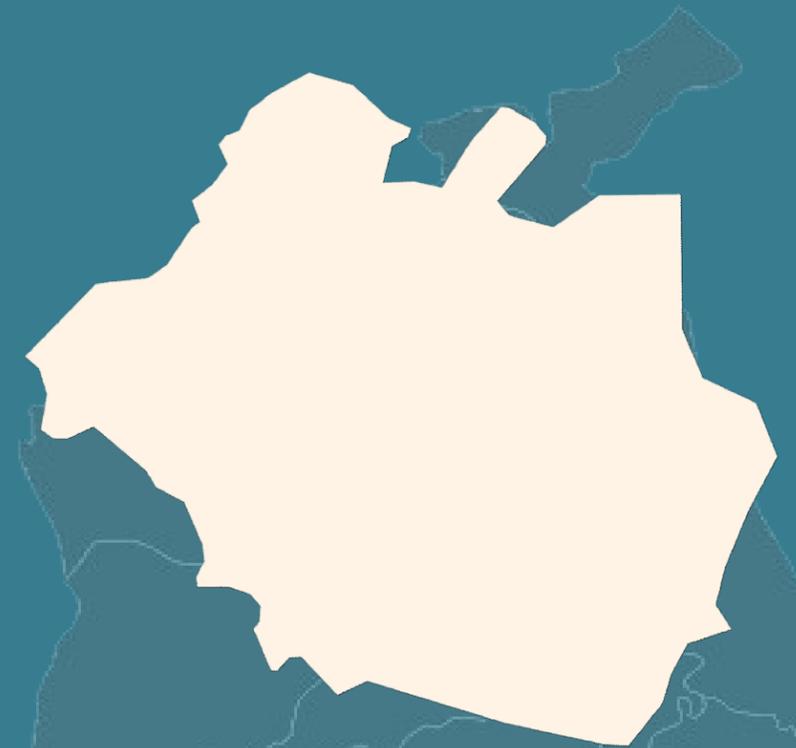
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Prof. Muqbil Burhan
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, MGNF



REGION

Union Territory of Chandigarh

Chandigarh has well-developed infrastructure and relatively low population density. It is a union territory and is the capital of the states, Punjab and Haryana. Chandigarh has many notable educational and cultural institutions and a multitude of sports and recreation facilities too. As an active step towards 'Skill India' Chandigarh Administration established Chandigarh Skill Development Mission (CSDM), with an objective to converge various schemes of all departments related to Skill Development under one umbrella. Since its inception CSDM is bridging the gap between the skilled people required in Industry and the unemployed youth by ensuring that the right candidate with passion for a particular job chooses the right course according to his/ her academic background, aptitude and skill-set and help them in securing a better livelihood by bringing necessary synergy, oversight and effective coordination.



DISTRICT

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

The erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir marks the northernmost part of India, known for its scenic beauty, handicrafts and high-quality dry fruits. The premise of skill development has gained prominence in recent years towards bringing forth a transformational change in the economy and welfare of the region. The region's primary challenge has been in chartering a phased transition of the economy and the workforce from their agrarian roots to sectors with high growth potential, such as the manufacturing or services sector. Skill development in the region has been of focus through varied policy

efforts and training centres. There are about 59 technical/ industrial /arts and craft centres along with 32 Polytechnic colleges established in the region. Further, the formation of the J&K Skill Development Mission has been towards streamlining the skill ecosystem in the UT through coordination among varied implementation under skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives such as PMKVY, UDAAN, HIMAYAT and UMEED being some among others. The primary beneficiary of such developments is about a quarter of the total population considered to be part of the Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) group.



DISTRICT

Union Territory of Ladakh

Ladakh is unique in terms of terrain, climate, ecology and geopolitics. It is a cold mountain desert with a fragile ecology that can support only a certain amount and type of development and activity. The terrain is spectacular, but challenging, especially in winter. Till recently a part of the border state of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh is right on India's frontier with China, requiring a significant military presence and facilities to support it. Given its unique characteristics and strategic geopolitical location, Ladakh was recently separated from Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 and declared a Union Territory.



State of West Bengal

The state of West Bengal, with its unique geography spanning from the hills of Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, is one of the most populous states in the country. With a historically extensive focus on agriculture as the mainstay of the state economy, skill development for industrial

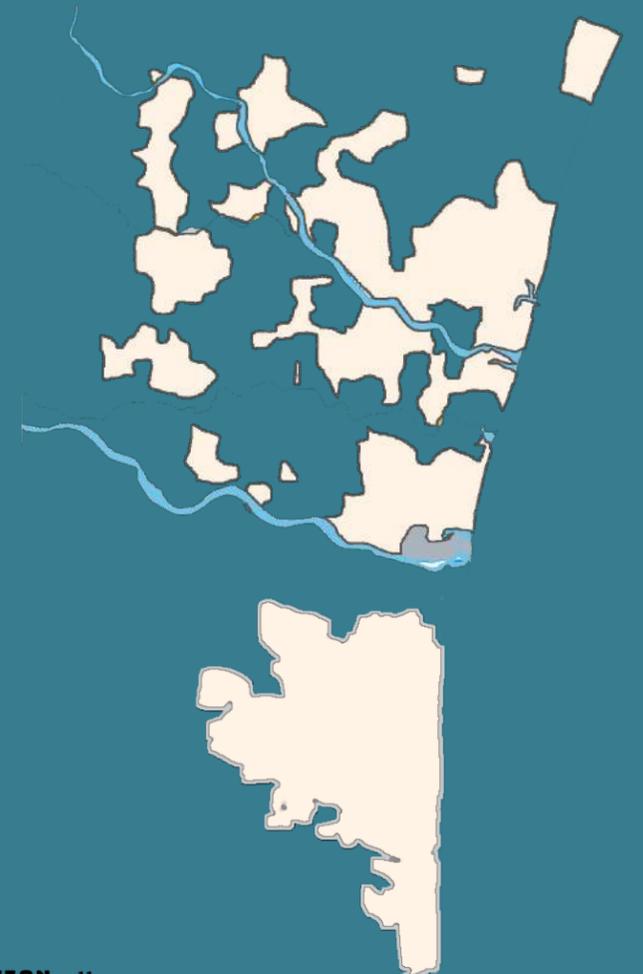
development has gained increasing prominence in the state in recent years, owing to shifting focus towards industry and service sectors. The Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development (PBSSD), is the nodal body in the state for managing all short term skill interventions, through central and state schemes. The state boasts of a total of 75 Polytechnics and 266 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to cater to institutional skilling initiatives under the aegis of West Bengal Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development (WBTETSD). The WBTETSD, along with West Bengal State Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Skill Development (WBSCTVESD), and PBSSD with its district components together act as the implementing arm for Utkarsh Bangla, the West Bengal Skill Development Mission. Currently, the major focus of the state government is its flagship skill development programme named 'Utkarsh Bangla', one of the major objectives of which is to forge industry linked skill trainings with assured placements for the youths of the state. The Programme is also creating opportunities for local indigenous craftsmanship by bringing their knowledge in the organized skilling process through WBSCTVESD by mapping and developing vocational curricula for the unmapped skills of rural Bengal.



Union Territory of Puducherry

The Union Territory of Puducherry enjoys a special status in many ways in the sense that it is a former French colony. French culture, a cosmopolitan outlook and a relaxed culture can still be found in the place. It is also the only UT other than Delhi to have an elected government. The territories of Puducherry spread across three states and four regions namely Puducherry and Karaikal within the state of Tamilnadu, Mahe within Kerala, and Yanam within Andhra Pradesh. With all these regions located along the coastline as well as river deltas, fisheries and agriculture form the most important sectors contributing to the economy. Puducherry district of the UT also earns much revenue from the tourism industry, given the presence of famous and beautiful natural beaches, renowned Aurobindo Ashram and inflow of foreign tourists. Puducherry State Skill Development Mission (PSSDM) is the nodal agency for all Skill Development and Training initiatives from the centre across the UT. At the Ut government level, District Industries Centre, PMEGP schemes provide apprenticeship,

training and support for entrepreneurial activities. Since Karaikal region has been provided district status, separate committees exist for both Puducherry and Karaikal districts. The route ahead is to organise people involved in informal sectors and upskill them and equip them with emerging practices and marketability, so as to leverage their abilities for sustainable income and improvement of livelihoods.



Jammu CAPITAL | URBAN

Jammu district is the most populous of the districts of Jammu and Kashmir in India, and is home to the winter capital (Jammu) of Jammu and Kashmir. Being the urban center of the UT, Jammu has the highest urban population along with rising industrial hubs.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 2,342 km²
Population: 14.57 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 24.7%
Gender ratio: 880
Labour Force: 34.52%
Literacy: 82.48%
NEET: 32.13%



- + Rising Industrial Hub
- + Winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir and district with largest industries in the state
- + Presence of renowned industry players like Dabur India Ltd, Lupin Ltd and Sun Pharmaceuticals. etc.
- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT JAMMU

Local art and crafts: Basohli, Phulkari.
Tourism Spots: Raghunath Temple, Peer Khoh, Bahu Fort and Gardens, Amar Mahal Palace Museum, Dogra Art Gallery



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products

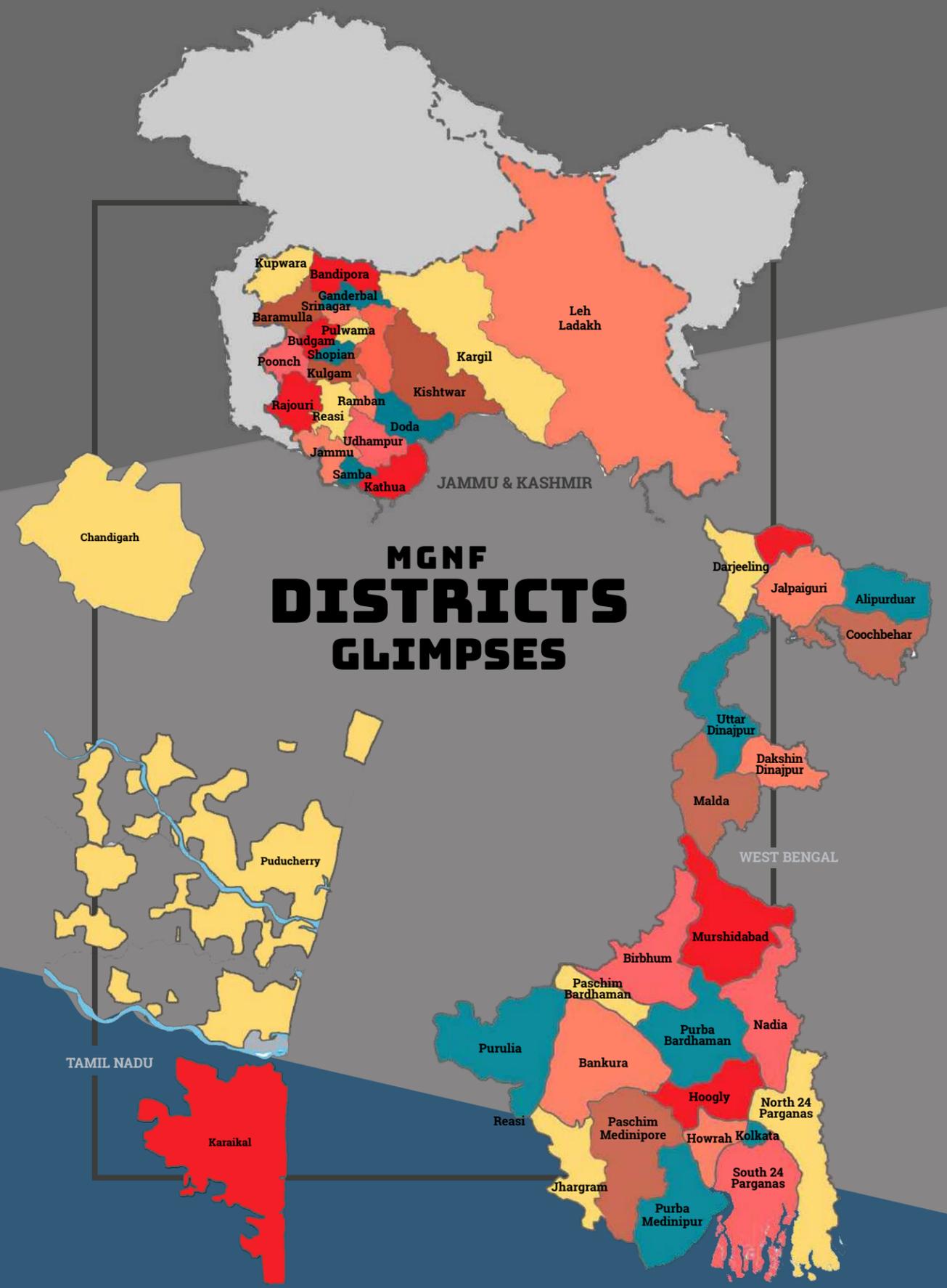


Potential Skill Sectors



Raghunath Temple

Amar Mahal Museum and Library



MGNF DISTRICTS GLIMPSES



Srinagar | SUMMER CAPITAL, J&K

Srinagar is the summer capital of J&K and is a popular tourist destination with its breathtaking natural beauty and high quality local craft. Heritage and Medical tourism, Service sector and floriculture are gaining ground all of which can contribute to its sustainable and inclusive growth

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 1719
Population: 3.14 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 40.08%
Sex ratio: 890
Literacy: 58.15%
Density per Sq.kms : 183 Sq.km

Major Employers
 Government,
 J&K Bank,
 Hospitality Industry,
 Telecommunication
 company

- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Lack of moderate or high skill opportunities
- Low wages

ABOUT SRINAGAR

Local art and crafts: Paper machie, walnut wood carving, Crewel work, sozni
Tourism Spots: Old city-Sheher-e Khaas, Trekking sites like Mamneth, Holy Shrines, Dal and Nigeen lake, Mughal Gardens



Dal Lake



Anantnag RURAL | AGRICULTURAL

Anantnag is located in South Kashmir and is famous for its scenic beauty. It is home to many tourist spots including the Holy Amarnath Cave. The economy of the district is predominantly agricultural. The district is known for its fisheries and cricket bat manufacturing industry.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 3574
Population: 10.7 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 10%
Sex ratio: 927
Literacy: 50.57%

Major Employers

Major Livelihoods

Niche Products

- + Strong Tourism Sector
- + Good road connectivity
- + Well functioning ITIs
- + Fisheries Sector
- + Good educational infrastructure
- Low awareness in people
- Lack of cold storage facility
- Volatile region
- High Unemployment rate
- Fewer industries and lack of private investment.
- Lack of placements & industry-academia collaborations.



Anantnag Valley



Amarnath Temple

ABOUT ANANTNAG

Local art and crafts: Tilla, Zari, Phulkari
Tourism Spots: Pahalgam, Kokernaag, Holy Amarnath Cave

Kathua RURAL | BORDER DISTRICT

Kathua itself is situated along the banks of a khad which has been heavily polluted and encroached over there years and this has become a drain of sewage, dividing it into two boroughs: Parliwand, meaning the other side; and Orliwand, meaning this side. Itself being a Plain the area is surrounded in the North by snow-capped Sivalik hills.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Industrial Labour



Small Businesses

Niche Products



Basohli Painting



Bamboo products

Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Tourism | Woodcrafts

Size (area in sq km): 2502/sq km

Population: 6,16,435 (2011)

SC/ST population: 31.56%

Sex ratio: 888

Literacy: 86.46%

Labour Force: 54.04%

Major Employers



- + Rising Industrial Hub
- + Huge potential in agriculture, tourism and Handloom/Handicraft sector
- + Rich in local art and craft including Basohli painting and art
- + Chenab Textile Mill is the main industry Player.
-
- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Lack of awareness and conservative mindset.

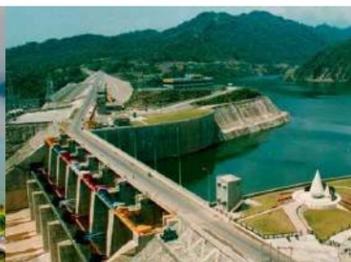
ABOUT KATHUA

Local art and crafts: Basohli painting and art, Pashmina shawl, Bamboo products

Tourism Spots: Atal Setu, Sukrala Mata, Sarthal, Chattergala, Dhaggar, Ranjit Sagar Dam Lake, Mini Goa Plahi



Atal Setu



Ranjit Sagar Dam

Kulgam | RURAL

Kulgam district is known as the Rice Bowl of Kashmir & Land of Springs. 85% of population is rural and the district has rich potential for agro-economic activities.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture (esp. Horticulture)



Small Businesses

Niche Products



Apples



Spices

Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism | Food Processing

Size (area in sq km): 1067

Population: 4.24 Lakh

Population Density: 1051

ST Population: 6.2%

Sex ratio: 951

- + Suitable agro-climatic conditions, abundance of natural water resources, vast pasture lands
- + Good training infrastructure & Active self-employment promotion
- + Good road connectivity
-
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Fewer industries and lack of private investment.
- Lack of placements & industry-academia collaborations.

ABOUT KULGAM

Local art and crafts: Crewel, Namda, Sozni, Carpet weaving, Wood carving, Pashmina hand spinning, Staple embroidery

Tourism Spots: Aharbal waterfalls, Chiranbal, Kung-Watan, Gurwatan, Nandimarg, Kousernag, Waseknag, Kheenag



Kongwattan



Aharbal Waterfall

Kupwara | RURAL

Kupwara district is the frontier district of the Jammu and Kashmir & shares its boundary with the Line of Control along the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The economy of Kupwara district is agrarian based & depends mostly on traditional forms of occupation. About 90 per cent of the population depends in one way or other on agriculture & allied sectors for their livelihood.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 2379 sq km
Population: 8.755 Lakh
ST population: 0.7%
Sex ratio: 835
Literacy: 66.92%
Labour Force: 38.75%

Niche Products



- + Great potential in horticulture
- + Opportunities in tourism and hospitality
- + Presence of minerals

Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Tourism and Hospitality | Health Sector

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Absence of good infrastructure
- Instability in the region

ABOUT KUPWARA

Local art and crafts: Crewel, Khatamband, Sozani

Tourism Spots: Bangus Valley, Lolab Valley, Sadhna Top, Kalaroos Caves, Keran and Karnah villages, Wayne.



Bangus Valley

Lolab Valley

Reasi | OLD NAME- RASYAL

Reasi is predominantly a hilly district, Which enjoys variable climatic conditions, ranging from sub-tropical to the semi-temperate . It is one of the eight newly created district in the state which came in to existence from 1ST April 2007.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 1719
Population: 3.14 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 40.08%
Sex ratio: 890
Literacy: 58.15%
Density per Sq.kms : 183 Sq.km

Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Tourism sector | Hydropower sector

- + Rich in Dairy Sector.
- + Presence of NHPC, Konkan Railways and Hotel Industry.
- + Climatic conditions of the district favourable for all types of Sub-tropical and Semi-temperate agricultural and horticulture products.

Major Employers

Hotel Industry



- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT REASI

Local art and crafts: Phulkari, Staple, Crewal

Tourism Spots: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Nav Devi Mandir, Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, Shri Bawa Aghar Jitto Ji, Shri Siarh Baba Ji, Shri Baba Dhansar Ji, Sh. Dera Baba Bhandra Bahadur Ji, Ziarat Baji Ismail Sahib Near Bharakh



Salal Power Station

Mata Vaishno Devi

Pulwama | RURAL

Pulwama being the central most district of Kashmir valley, is the saffron capital of the nation, formed in 1979 from the erstwhile Anantnag district, it is basically an agrarian economy. Prominent MSMEs and Cement Industries caters to employ skilled labourers of the district. Service sector is also growing steadily.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 1090
Population: 5.60 Lakh
ST population: 4.1%
Labour Force: 53.59%
Sex ratio: 912
Literacy: 65%
NEET: 16.22%

Major Employers
 Cold Storages Units, Cement Industries, plywood and bat manufacturing industries.

- + Saffron capital of the nation.
- + Agriculture based profitable economy.
- + Prominent cement industries and cold storage units.
- Influence of extremist ideology among youth and a trust-deficit for administration.
- Lack of skilled manpower and Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Lack of awareness of the govt. schemes among people

ABOUT PULWAMA

Local art and crafts: pashmina shawl, paper mache products. Carpet and curtain weaving.
Tourism Spots: Gulmarg, Wular, Parihaspora, Verinag, Tangmarg, Gandola lift, Biosphere Reserve, Alpathar lake



Gulmarg



Tarsar Lake

Ramban

Ramban district lies in the lap of Pir Panjal in Chenab Valley situated midway between Jammu and Srinagar along NH 44A. It posse.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 1329 sq km
Population: 283,713
SC/ST Population: 18.92%
Sex ratio: 902
Literacy: 54.27%
Labour Force: 74.62%
NEET: 19.39%

- + Unexplored tourist destinations
- + High export potential
- + Suitable agro-climatic conditions for Horticulture produce
- No industrial base
- Extreme topography
- Limited road connectivity

ABOUT RAMBAN

Local art and crafts: pashmina shawl, paper mache products. Carpet and curtain weaving
Tourism Spots: Patnitop, Sanasar, Dagantop, Tattapani and Mahu Valley



Patnitop



Chenab Ramban



Samba BACKWARD | RURAL

Samba district has the largest industrial hub in the UT of J&K. Samba is also famous for traditional Calico Printing, It is for this reason that it is also known as 'City of Sheets'.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Automotive | Banking & Finance | Food Processing | Healthcare | Pharmaceutical

Size (area in sq km): 904
Population: 3.19 Lakh
SC/ST population: 34.48%
Labour Force: 37.09%
Sex ratio: 886
Literacy: 81.41%
NEET: 31%



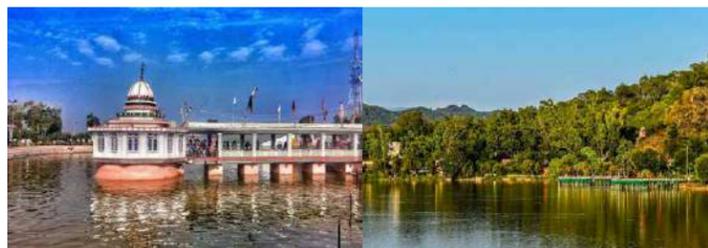
- + Rising Industrial Hub
- + Presence of renowned industry players like Dabur India Ltd, Kandhari beverages and Sun Pharmaceuticals. etc.
- + Potential for Agri-businesses and growth of agro-based industry.

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- High Attrition Rates

ABOUT SAMBA

Local art and crafts: Calico printing & Bamboo craft

Tourism Spots: Mansar Lake, Surinsar lake, Chichi Mata temple, Baba Chamliyal



Baba Sidh Gorja Ji Mansar Lake



Shopian | (SHEEN-E-VAN) | RURAL

Shopian is a historical town, and has gained importance from the time of Mughal rulers. In 2007, Shopian as a district carved out of Pulwama. It is also known as apple bowl of the J&K. The district has the honour to had Imam Shahi Hamadan entered via it into the Kashmir valley to spread the message of Islam

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Automotive | Horticulture | Bakery

Size (area in sq km): 612 sq km
Population: 2.66 lakh
SC/ST Population: 5.64%
Sex ratio: 950
Literacy: 62.49%
Labour Force: 46.7%
NEET: 13.48%

Major Employers
 Peaks automobile
 Orchard cold store.

- + Apple Bowl of the country
 - + Horticulture based profitable economy.
 - + Lush green forests especially in the areas like Sedow, Hirpora & Keller is rich in scenic beauty
 - + Cold Storage and grading grafting industry
-
- No influence of extremist ideology on youth and a trust-deficit for administration
 - Minimal presence of industries.
 - Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT SHOPIAN

Local art and crafts: crewel, embroidery, chain stitch and carpet weaving.

Tourism Spots: Peer ki gali, Aharbal Waterfall, Mughal Road ,Padmpavan etc.



Mughal Road Jamia Masjid

Kishtwar RURAL | HILLY

Kishtwar district lies in the Chenab region of Jammu Division and is the largest district (area wise) and also have the largest forest cover in the union territory. Popularly known as the "Land of Sapphire, Saffron and Shrines", Kishtwar produces world's purest saffron with highest total crocin content of 38.6 mg/g. Sapphire of Kishtwar has a peacock neck bluish colour that provides it monopoly among other Sapphires of the world.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 7737 sq km
Population: 2.3 Lakh
SC/ST population: 22.73%
Sex ratio: 920
Literacy: 56.2%
Labour Force: 65.45%
NEET: 12.57%

Major Employers



- + Huge potential in Agro-Based Industries
- + Scope in Religious, Wildlife and Adventure Tourism
- + High export potential
- Lack of Large/Medium Scale Industries
- Lack of Skilled Manpower
- Absence of Entrepreneurial Zeal among youth

ABOUT KISHTWAR

Local art and crafts: Kishtwari Loi, Woollen Blankets, Shawls, Crewel, Sozni

Tourism Spots: Warwan Valley, Chingam Valley, Ziarat of Shah Farid-Ud-Din, Machel Yatra, Kailash Yatra and Sarthal Devi Yatra



Kishtwar National Park

Bandipora BORDER | RURAL | TRIBAL

Bandipora district is known as the land of 'Aalim, Aadab and Aab' – Literature, Culture, Water. Asia's largest freshwater lake, Wular lake, and the serendipitous Gurez valley are some of the gems of Bandipora. As one of the newest districts of Jammu and Kashmir, it has been steadily rising in multiple avenues.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 345 sq km
Population: 3.92 lakh
SC/ST Population: 19.32%
Labour Force: 31.95%
Sex ratio: 889
Literacy: 56.28%
NEET: 40.26%

Major Employers

- Sun Chemicals
- NHPC
- Kishenganga HEP
- Alif Industries
- Insha Fresh and Frozen Foods

- + Rising tourist hub.
- + Development of industrial estates.
- + Increased market access for local handicrafts.
- + Multifaceted enterprises to utilize dairy, sheep and animal products in entirety.
- Lack of skilled manpower.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal.
- Harsh climate in northern areas.
- Mountainous terrain with accessibility and infrastructure issues.

ABOUT BANDIPORA

Local art and crafts: Basohli, Phulkari.

Tourism Spots: Mount Harmukh, Athwato, Zurimans, Surinder, Gurez, Wular lake



Wular Lake

Mt. Harmukh

Budgam | UNEXPLORED BEAUTY

Budgam district is located in the Kashmir division of the UT of J&K, established in 1979. It is the district nearest to the capital Srinagar. Since its inception, the district has reached numerous milestones and is working hard to reach the pinnacle, especially in its major potential areas of Tourism, Handlooms/Handicrafts and Agriculture & allied activities.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Dairy Farming | Sheep Farming | IT Sector | Technicians in renewable energy



Doodhpathri

Nilnag Lake

Size (area in sq km): 1371 sq km

Population: 7.5 Lakh

ST population: 3.18%

Labour Force: 66.3%

Sex ratio: 894

Literacy: 57.98%

NEET: 22%

Major Employers

Government
Industrial Estate
Rangreth
Local
Manufacturers

- + Proximity to Airport
- + Immense potential for Tourism development.
- + Development of industrial estates.
- + Authentic local handicrafts.
- + Potential in agriculture and allied activities
- Lack of awareness regarding the necessity of skilled manpower.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal.
- Harsh winter with constant snowfall.
- Mountainous terrain with accessibility and infrastructure issues.

ABOUT BUDGAM

Local art and crafts: Kani Shawl Weaving, Namda Carpet Making, Gabba Sazi, Zari art

Tourism Spots: Yousmarg, Nilnag, Doodh Pathri, Tuta Kot, Sangi Safaid, Tos Maidan, Nil Veerpal and Khag.

Baramulla | RURAL

Baramulla is the largest producer of horticulture products in the UT with vast apple orchards. It also houses one of the only two rabbit farms in the northern India.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Tourism | Woodcrafts

Size (area in sq km): 4190

Population: 10.08 Lakh

Population Density: 238/sq km

ST population: 7.17%

Sex ratio: 885

Literacy: 66.93%

Labour Force: 26.22%

NEET: 36.85%

- + Suitable agro-climatic conditions, abundance of natural water resources, vast pasture lands.
- + Strong cultural ethos ingrained in the society and general populace.
- + Good road and rail connectivity.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal.
- Fewer industries and lack of private investment.
- Lack of placements & industry-academia collaborations.

ABOUT BARAMULLA

Local art and crafts: Kani, Sozni, Carpet weaving, Wood carving, Papier Machie, Staple embroidery

Tourism Spots: Gulmarg, Wular, Parihaspora, Verinag, Tangmarg, Gandola lift, Biosphere Reserve, Alpathar lake



Gulmarg ski

Baramulla Eco Park

Rajouri BORDER | RURAL

Rajouri is one of the most far-flung districts in the country, sharing a long boundary with Pakistan. The district is climatically distinct from other districts in the UT, it has Tropical as well as Temperate climatic conditions.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Stone crushing



MSME

Niche Products



Dairy



Maize



Pikanut

Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing Enterprises | Tourism

Size (area in sq km): 2630 sq km
Population: 6.42 Lakh
ST population: 36.23%
Sex ratio: 954
Literacy: 68.17%
Labour Force: 29.82%
NEET: 28.21%

- + Natural Beauty of Mountains and Hills.
- + Rich Agriculture and Horticulture Resources.
- + Availability of Land and Man power for Industries

- Poor Power Supply.
- Un-availability of raw material for industries. Absence of Large and medium scale industrial units.
- Lack of Skilled Man power

ABOUT RAJOURI

Local art and crafts: Chikri wood handicrafts, Pine Needles Handicrafts

Tourism Spots: Ziarat Shahdara Sharief, Gurudwara Chhati Padshahi, Mangla Mata, Dehra Ki Gali, Kotranka Budhal



Gurudwara Chhati Padshahi



Rajouri town

Doda RURAL | HILLY

Doda district lies in the chenab region of Jammu Division and is the second largest district (area wise). Sharing national border with Himachal Pradesh makes it a good spot to attract tourism from the neighbouring states. Tourists can enjoy the adventure sport of river rafting. District emerged top player in lavender farming. The district is known for its rich mineral deposits. Lead, mica, gypsum, manganese, marble, graphite copper etc are found here.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Dairy



Casual Labour

Niche Products



Tourism



Apple, Pears



Lavender

Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism and Hospitality | Dairy Processing | Banking & Finance | Agriculture

- + Rising Industries in agriculture sector growing tourism year on year
- + Space for adventure tourism like Paragliding, river rafting
- + Presence of large PSUs

Size (area in sq km): 8912 sq km
Population: 4.16 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 22.6%
Sex ratio: 919
Literacy: 64.68%
Labour Force: 52.39%
NEET: 26.8%

Major Employers



- Lack of skilled manpower
- Lack of manufacturing industries
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT DODA

Local art and crafts: Woolen Blankets, Shawls, Bina work, Gaba

Tourism Spots: Padri, Gullidanda, Dessa, Lal Draman, Kailash, Bhaderwah, Jai Valley, Seoj Meadow, Jantroon Dhar, Nalthi, Chatergalla Pass



The Doda river to Zanskar river.

Ganderbal | RURAL

District Ganderbal was carved out of District Srinagar on April 1, 2007. Ganderbal has derived its name from famous spring called Ganderbhavan and with time the name got changed into Ganderbal. In the olden days the territory of Ganderbal has acted as gate way to the central Asia by constituting one of the most important station of the erstwhile silk-route. District holds the some of the world famous tourist sites like Sonamarg and also has pilgrimage sites like Kheer Bhavani. The Holy Amarnath cave is in Ganderbal only.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 1024 sq km
Population: 297446
ST population: 0.7%
Sex ratio: 874
Literacy: 58.04%

Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism and Hospitality | Food Processing | Health Sector | Tunnel Construction

ABOUT GANDERBAL

Tourism Spots: Sonamarg, Manasbal lake, Kheer Bhawani, Gangbal, Satsar



Sonamarg

Manasbal Lake

Udhampur

Udhampur is the third-largest district of the Jammu region and the fifth-largest city in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Named after Raja Udham Singh, it serves as the district capital and the Northern Command headquarters of the Indian Army. The district is situated in the southern part of the Jammu & Kashmir State and is bounded on the west by Reasi District, in the North by Udhampur, in North-East by Doda district, in South-East by Samba & Kathua Districts and in the south-west by Jammu district

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 2380 sq km
Population: 5.54 Lakh
Population Density: 221/km
ST Population: 0.56%
Sex ratio: 870
Literacy: 59%
Labour Force: 60.46%
NEET: 20.02%

Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



- + Suitable agro-climatic conditions, abundance of natural water resources, vast pasture lands
- + Good training infrastructure & Active self-employment promotion
- + Good road connectivity

- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Fewer industries and lack of private investment.
- Lack of placements & industry-academia collaborations.

ABOUT UDHAMPUR

Local art and crafts: Basohli Paintings, Miniature Paintings.

Tourism Spots: Patnitop, Nathatop, Sanasar Lake, Devika, Krimchi Temples, Naag Mandir, Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, Sudh Mahadev and Mantalai, Shankri Devta Temple, Mounгри cave shrines.



Sanasar lake

Krimchi Temples

REGION
JAMMU & KASHMIR

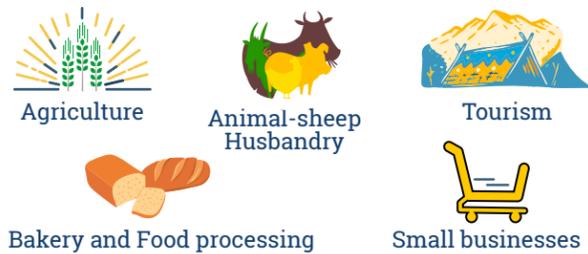
Kargil TRIBAL | RURAL | BORDERING PAK OCCUPIED GILGIT - BALTISTAN

Kargil district is one among the two districts of newly formed UT of Ladakh in India with Himalayan and trans-Himalayan terrain mostly with high altitude mountains-peaks and passes featured with cold weather, harsh winters and extreme climatic conditions with temperatures varying from -40C to +40 C. In spite of having vast geographical area, the population is just around 1.5 lakh with 86.89% being tribal and 88.4% being rural where Islam-shia emerged as a major religion and Buddhism sustained as a minor religion.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 14,086 sq km
Population: 01.51 Lakh
SC/ST population: 86.89%
Sex ratio: 810
Literacy: 71.34%
Labour Force: 30.59%
NEET: 35.86%

Major Employers



- + Very less population.
- + New UT strong aspirations.
- + Potential for renewable energy.
- + Rich Culture and Heritage.
- + Low crime rate-Peace and Harmony.
- + Natural Scenario beauty-tourism.

Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism | Food Processing | Banking & Finance | Automotive | Agriculture-Horticulture | Logistics | Renewable energy-solar



Kargil War Memorial

Shargole-Monastery

ABOUT KARGIL

Local art and crafts: Gabba Embroidery, wood carving, Ladakhi Garment

Tourism Spots: Kargil war Memorial, drass, Aryan Valley villages-Darchiks, suru valley, Zanskar valley, Pensi la, Fotu la, Zozi la, Bhembat rock, Monasteries of Shargole, Padum and rangdum, Zangla fort, Parkachik-nun kun massif.

REGION
LADAKH

Leh CAPITAL | RURAL

Although, Leh district is one of the largest districts of the country in terms of area, it has the lowest population density across the entire country. It forms the Northern tip of the Indian Sub-Continent bordering with both Pakistan and China. Its unique geographical conditions make it necessary to have focused and specially designed programs for all kinds of interventions.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Size (area in sq km): 45,110 sq km
Population: 133,487
SC/ST Population: 71.8%
Gender ratio: 690/1000
Literacy: 77.20%
Labour Force: 59.63%
NEET: 15.09%

Major Employers



- + Prominent tourist destination.
- + Unique handicrafts and handloom offerings which are famous across the globe.
- + Under special focus of GOI for developmental activities because of strategic location.

Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Knowledge Industries and Services | Renewable and geo-thermal energy sectors | Light industries

- Geographical disconnect from rest of country.
- Highly restrictive weather conditions.
- No presence of MSME or heavy industries.



Pangong Lake

Leh's Hanle Observatory

ABOUT LEH

Local art and crafts: Pashmina, Thanka Painting, Namda, Weaved carpets, Thikma dying.

Tourism Spots: Leh town, Nubra Valley, Pangong Lake, Tso Moriri, Hanle Observatory.



**REGION
PUDUCHERRY**

Puducherry CAPITAL | URBAN

Pondicherry/Puducherry is a city, municipality in Pondicherry district and an urban agglomeration in the Puducherry Union Territory. Fondly known as Pondy, it is the largest city of the union territory. The city has had been under several colonial rules like the Dutch, Portuguese, French and the British. Traces of these rules are still evident in the designs and architectures of the city.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 19.54 sq km
Population: 12.47 Lakh
ST population: 15.73%
Gender ratio: 1037
Literacy: 85.85%
Labour Force: 48.4%

Major Employers



- + Low cost of living.
- + Puducherry is known as educational hub as people from all over india are studying here.
- + Presence of renowned industry players like MRF, Whirlpool, TVS, Berger paints, Nippon Paints, etc

- Lack of skilled manpower
- High unemployment.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT PUDUCHERRY

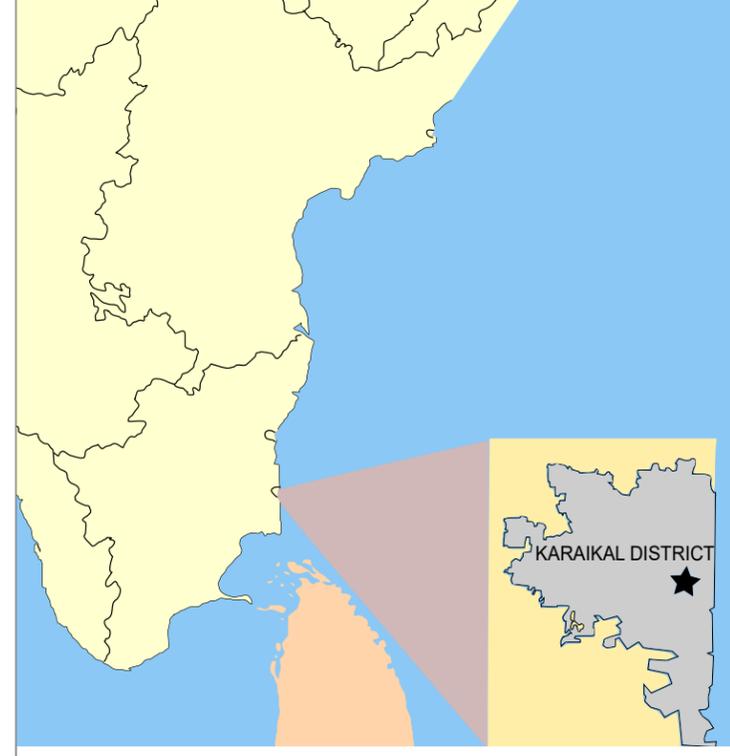
Local art and crafts: Korai Mats, Puducherry bomai, Pottery products, handmade paper, jute handicrafts

Tourism Spots: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry Museum, Church of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Botanical Garden, Sri Manakula vinayagar temple.



Sri Aurobindo Ashram

Auroville



**REGION
KARAIKAL**

Karaikal | SEMI URBAN

Karaikal district is the second biggest district of the Union Territory of Puducherry. It lies on the Cauvery delta region along the Bay of Bengal, with Paddy cultivation and Fisheries being the primary occupations.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 157 Sq.km
Population: 2.002 Lakh
SC Population: 17.65%
Sex ratio: 1047
Labour Force: 46.88%
Literacy: 87.05%
NEET: 25.28%

Major Employers



ABOUT KARAIKAL

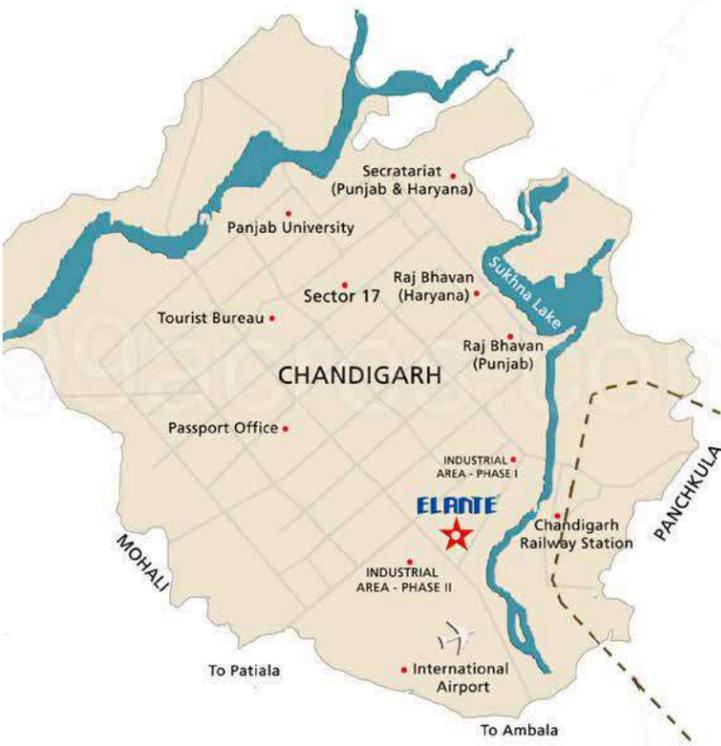
Local art and crafts: Coir based products, Clay pottery

Tourism Spots: Thirunallar Darbaranyeshwar Temple, Karaikal beach



- + Appreciable infrastructure to serve the general public, both existing and proposed, considering the small size of the district
- + Fertile, well-drained land and coastal area conducive for a gamut of agricultural and fisheries activities
- + Presence of Central and State government entities, Public Sector, and private sector undertakings to provide employment to skilled youth within the district

- Highly inward looking natives, with reluctance to migrate for better opportunities
- Tendency to get into government jobs only, despite there being a lull in government recruitment for years
- Curricula of skill training institutes not being state of the art and industry relevant, thus diminishing the scope of employability



Chandigarh CAPITAL | URBAN

Chandigarh is a city, district and union territory in India that serves as the joint capital of the two neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab. Chandigarh is one of the early planned cities in post-independence India and is internationally known for its architecture and urban design.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods

Govt. Departments | Education Institutes
| MSMEs | IT/ITES | Hospitality

Niche Products



Bakery



Phulkari Punjabi Dupattas, Juttis

Potential Skill Sectors



Aerospace & Aviation | Green Jobs | Hydrocarbon | Telecom

Size (area in sq km): 114 sq km

Population: 10.55 Lakh

ST population: 18.09%

Sex ratio: 818

Literacy: 86.43%

Labour Force: 40.55%

NEET: 27.89%

- + Large number of youth
- + Focus on Green Jobs
- + A single-window system for young entrepreneurs

- Setting up manufacturing sector jobs & industries is limited
- Limited employment opportunities
- Lack of focus on imparting technical skills than job skills

ABOUT CHANDIGARH

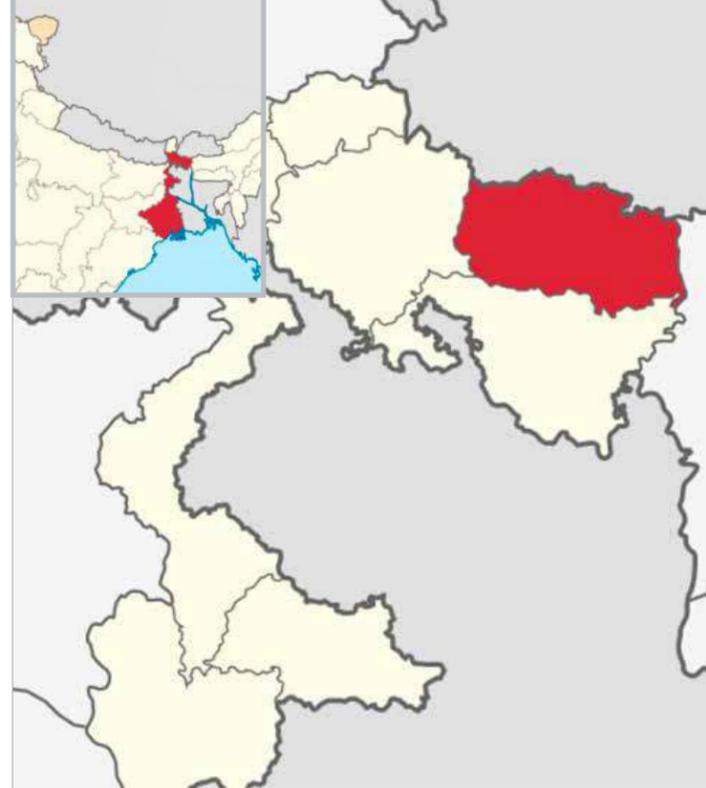
Local art and crafts: Phulkaris and Juttis

Tourism Spots: Rock Garden, Zakir Hussain Rose Garden, Sukhna Lake, Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, Sector-17 Plaza



Sukhna Lake

Rock Garden



Alipurduar BORDERING DISTRICT | RURAL

Alipurduar is the newly created District of West Bengal. Erstwhile district of Jalpaiguri was bifurcated to create Alipurduar district. It became the 20th district of West Bengal on 25th June, 2014. The district headquarters at Alipurduar situated on the east bank of the Kaljani River on the foot hills of the Himalays. The town is the gateway to Bhutan and North Eastern States of India.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Tea Garden labour



Tourism Related Jobs

Niche Products



Bamboo and Cane Crafts



Wood Carvings



Pottery



Jute Products

Potential Skill Sectors



Green Jobs



Bio Fertilizer



Areca nut Plate/
Cups Manufacturing

- + Strong Handicraft Manufacturing Units
- + MSME sector is quite strong
- + Agro-based Food processing
- + Tea gardens provide a high no. of jobs

- Lack of skilled labour
- High migration rate
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Lack of Industry Presence

Size (area in sq km): 3,136 sq km

Population: 15.01 Lakh

SC/ST Population: 55.85%

Sex ratio: 948

Literacy: 64.7%

Labour Force: 40.02%

NEET: 28.99%

Major Employers



Tourism

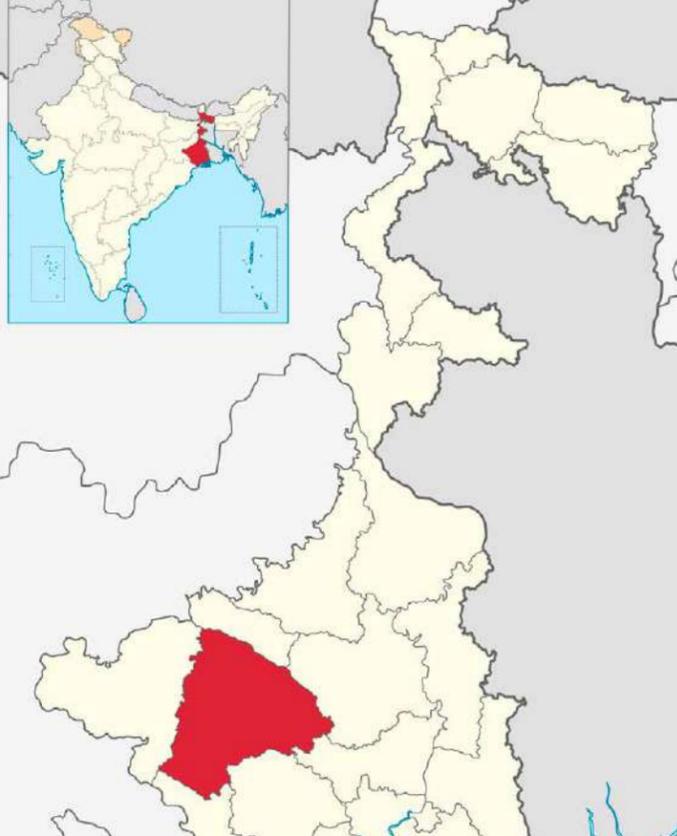


Jaldapara Sanctuary

ABOUT ALIPURDUAR

Local art and crafts: Cham Dance, Yak Dance

Tourism Spots: Buxaduar Tiger Reserve, Jayanti Hills, Buxa fort, Jaldapara National Park, Chilapata forest, Rajabhatkhowa museum & Tiger Rescue Centre, Rai Matang, Santrabari, Rovers Point, Roopang Valley, Lepchakhawa, Chunabhati and the Tea gardens of this district



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Bankura BACKWARD DISTRICT | RURAL

Bankura is link between Chotonagpur plateau and plain of Bengal. It's a drought prone district. The district has got GI tag for Terracotta of Panchmura, Dokra of Bikna. Enriched in handloom and handicrafts.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Handicrafts | Tourism | Human Resource

Size (area in sq km): 6882 sq km
Population: 3596674
ST population: 91.7%
Sex ratio: 956
Labour Force: 40.8%
Literacy: 70.95%

Major Employers
PLASTO STEEL INDUSTRIES PARK

- Lack of skilled manpower
 - High attrition rates
 - Low entrepreneurial zeal
-
- + Enriched in handicrafts
 - + Presence of renowned industry players like Inox chemical, Neelkamal, Xpro, BD Goyal etc.
 - + Good road connectivity

ABOUT BANKURA

Local art and crafts: Patachitra, Terracotta, Industrial labour, Stone Carving, Dokra, Baluchari Sari

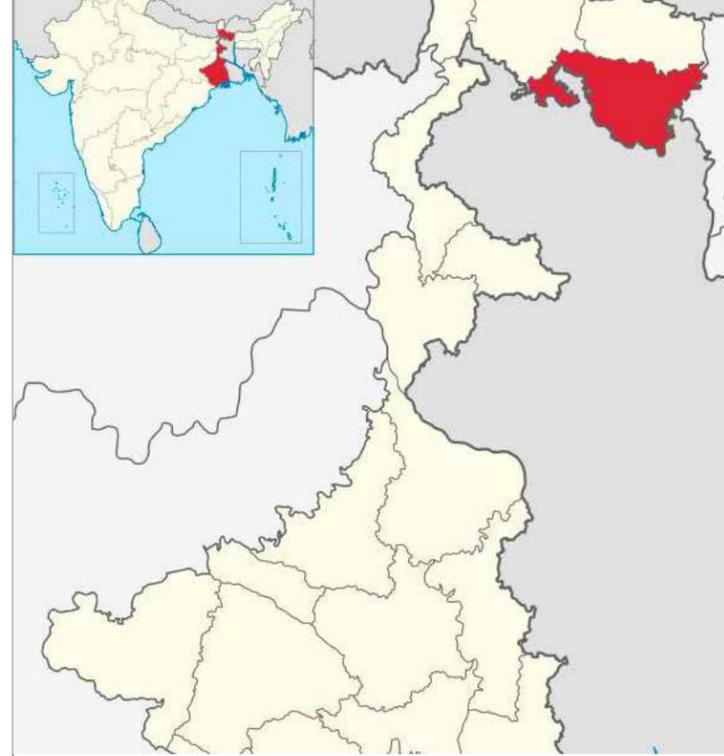
Tourism Spots: Bishnupur(temple city), Mukutmanipur, Susunia



Rasmancha Bishnupur



Mukutmanipur Dam



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Cooch Behar

The district of Cooch Behar, located in the North-Eastern region of West Bengal and bordering Assam, is an erstwhile princely state, which got subsumed into the Indian territory at the time of independence.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Jute Industries | Handloom Industries | Agriculture | Horticulture

Size (area in sq km): 3387 sq km
Population: 28.20 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 50.64%
Sex ratio: 1058
Literacy: 74.78%
Labour Force: 41.9%
NEET: 34.15%

Major Employers
Agriculture, Rice mills, Jute Mills

- + Presence of agricultural and horticultural produce within the district for agro- based industries.
- + Easy access to the North-Eastern market because of close proximity to Assam.
- + Good road connectivity, extending up to the international border of Bangladesh.

- Low industrialization rates.
- Far away from the state capital, Kolkata.



Coochbehar kings palace

ABOUT COOCH BEHAR

Local art and crafts: Shitalpati, Shola Art, Wood Craft.

Tourism Spots: Cooch Behar Palace, Madan Mohan Temple.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Dakshin Dinajpur

ASPIRATIONAL | RURAL

Dakshin Dinajpur is predominantly an agricultural district. The Headquarter (sadar) of the district is at Balurghat. The district comprises two subdivisions: Balurghat and Gangarampur at Buniadpur.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Handicrafts

Niche Products



Jute products



Clay Products



Bamboo

Potential Skill Sectors



Handicrafts | Tourism | Human Resource | Handloom

Size (area in sq km): 2162 sq km

Population: 16.71 Lakhs

SC/ST population: 45.2%

Sex ratio: 950

Literacy: 82.3%

Labour Force: 40.97%

NEET: 31.48%

- + Academically Moderate
- + Agro-based food processing, food-packing industries and handlooms play key role in shaping socio-economic life of the district.

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Low awareness

ABOUT DAKSHIN DINAJPUR

Local art and crafts: Mukha wooden mask, Jute products, Handcrafted basket from sabai grass

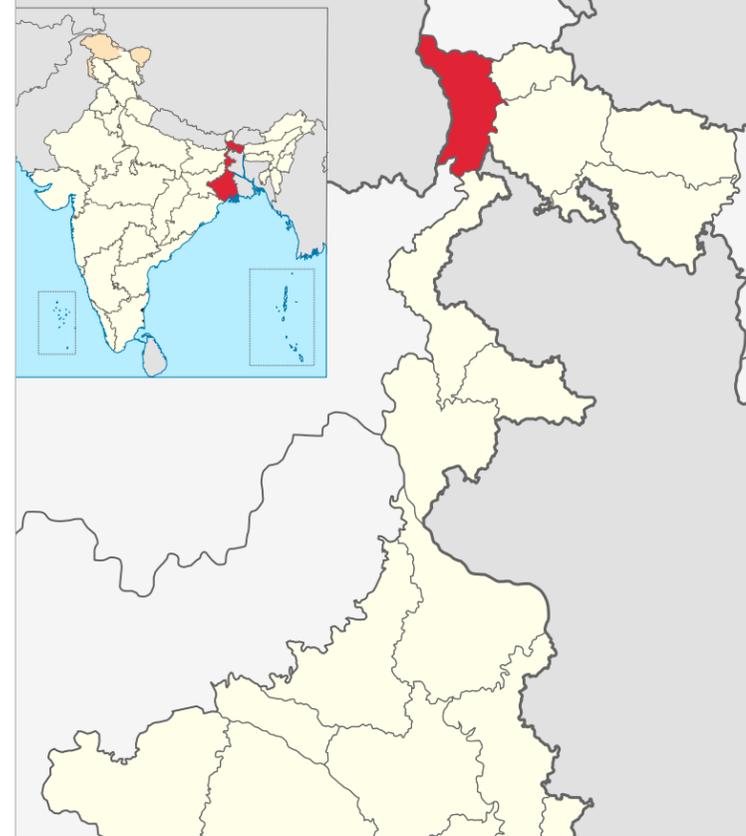
Tourism Spots: Angina Bird Sanctuary, Danga Forest, Kaldighi, Bangarh Excavated Site.



Angina Bird Sanctuary



Danga Forest



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Darjeeling

BORDER DISTRICT | URBAN-RURAL

Nestled among the rolling mountains with the glistening Mt. Kanchenjunga towering over the azure sky, Darjeeling is fondly called the “Queen of the Hills”, and provides a perfect gateway for those seeking to be in harmony with nature. This is the land of the muscatel-flavoured Darjeeling tea revered by connoisseurs across the globe. Darjeeling in the post modern era comprises of six T's -Tea, Teak, Tourism, Toy Train, Tiger Hill, and Trekkers' paradise.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Tea



Timber



Tourism

Niche Products



Darjeeling tea



Himalayan curios



Dalley khorsani



Thangka painting

Potential Skill Sectors



Hospitality | Services

- + Key tourism destination in West Bengal with significant potential for tourism development
- + High potential for Horticulture and Floriculture

Size (area in sq km): 3149 sq km

Population: 1,846,823

SC/ST Population: 17.2%/21.5%

Gender ratio: 970

Literacy: 57.62%

Labour Force: 39.2%

NEET: 7.7%

- Limited potential for absolute employment growth in Tea Plantations leading to displacement of workforce
- Industrial growth predominantly constrained to Tea Processing Units

ABOUT DARJEELING

Local art and crafts: Tibetan wood/bamboo work, Gorkha metal work/artefacts, jewellery, Thangka paintings, carpets and woollen garments.

Tourism Spots: Tiger Hill, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling Zoo, Darjeeling Toy Train, Darjeeling Ropeway, Batasia Loop, Chowrasta, Rockgarden, Peace Pagoda, Tea estates, Dali Monastery, Mahakal Temple, Refugee Centre, Kanchenjunga viewpoints



Darjeeling Tea Estates



Darjeeling Toy Train



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Birbhum ASPIRATIONAL | AGRICULTURAL

Birbhum district is the northernmost district of Burdwan Division of West Bengal in India. Home to noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University it is the cultural hub of West Bengal. 75% of the population here, is engaged in agriculture. Till now no large industries were present here, however the discovery of Asia's largest coal block at Deucha Panchami promises to bring a new industrial dawn for Birbhum.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 4545 sq km
Population: 3,502,404
ST population: 36.42%
Gender ratio: 956
Labour Force: 41.29%
Literacy: 70.68%



- + Cultural Hub of Bengal, with a varied range of handicrafts
- + Largest coal block of Asia found here in Deucha-Panchami
- + Huge Agricultural engagement in population, promoting agro-business

- Absence of any large industries in the district
- Lack of mineral resources
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT BIRBHUM

Local art and crafts: Korai Mats, Puducherry bomai, Pottery products, handmade paper, jute handicrafts

Tourism Spots: Shantiniketan, Tarapith Temple, Nalhateshwari Temple, Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Kankalitala Temple, Bakreshwar Hot Springs.



Shantiniketan



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Hooghly | URBAN- RURAL

Situated along the banks of the river Hooghly, the district is one of the most economically developed in the state of West Bengal. Home to a rich heritage that dates back to more than 500 years, Hooghly served as a major European settlement in Bengal. It is known as the major jute cultivation hub as well as a flourishing industrial base in the state. With its headquarters at Chuchura, Hooghly is mostly an urbanised district.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Gems and Jewellery | Handloom | Agri-based Industries

- + Highly Industrialised district
- + Geographical advantage
- Lack of skilled manpower
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

Size (area in sq km): 1216 Sq.km
Population: 5,519,145
SC/ST Population: 28.6%
Sex ratio: 961
Labour Force: 41.76%
Literacy: 82.55%
NEET: 33.94%



ABOUT HOOGLHY

Local art and crafts: Jute Handicrafts, Dokra.

Tourism Spots: Bandel Church, Tarakeshwar Temple, Hooghly Imambara, Chandannagar Museum



Imambara



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Howrah RURAL | URBAN

Howrah is a district of the West Bengal state in eastern India. Howrah district is one of the highly urbanized area of West Bengal. It has thousands of years of rich heritage in the form of the great Bengali kingdom of Bhurshut. Howrah is most industrialized zone of the West Bengal state.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Potential Skill Sectors



Gems & Jewellery | Food Processing | Handicrafts | Capital Goods | Apparel | Agriculture | Textile

Major Employers



Howrah Bridge

Size (area in sq km): 1467 sq km
Population: 48.50 Lakh
ST population: 7.34%
Gender ratio: 939
Literacy: 80.0%
Labour Force: 30.92%
Gram Panchayat: 2431

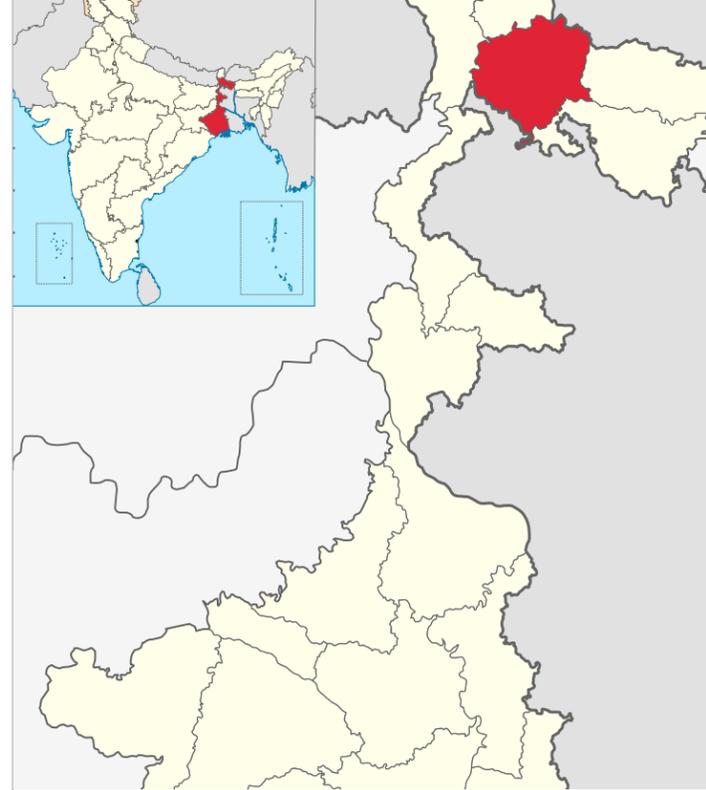
- + Highly Industrialized District.
- + Industries like engineering, casting, steel fabrication, ship building, consumer goods industries, manufacturing of industrial electrical goods accessories etc. had a large concentration in the district.

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Lack of demands
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Lack of credit delivery process for local entrepreneurs.

ABOUT HOWRAH

Local art and crafts: Phulkaris and Juttis

Tourism Spots: Belur Math Temple, Indian Botanical Garden, Howrah Bridge, Andul Rajbari, Vidyasagar Setu, Garchumuk, The Railway Museum



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Jalpaiguri BORDER DISTRICT | RURAL

Jalpaiguri, a northern district of West Bengal is part of the Duars Region at the foothills of the Himalayas. It located on the banks of the Teesta River which is the second largest river in West Bengal after the Ganges. It is a gateway to the hills of Darjeeling, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. It is known for it's tea, timber and tourism.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 3386.18 sq km
Population: 23,81,596
SC/ST Population: 37.7%/18.9%
Gender ratio: 956.085
Literacy: 74%
Labour Force: 41%
NEET: 34.71%

- + Tea gardens provide high number of jobs.
- + Rising service sector- including hospitality and tourism.
- + Strong MSME.
- + Advantages of being a border state in terms of trade.

- Low industrialization rate
- Far away from the state capital, Kolkata

ABOUT JALPAIGURI

Local art and crafts: Wood craft, Cane & Bamboo, Wood Carving, Stone Carving, Jute Items, Embroidery and Soft Doll making.

Tourism Spots: Dooars region, Gorumara WS, Chapramari WS, Chalsha, Murti, Jalpesh Temple, Baikunthapur Rajbari Dighi, Devi Choudhuranis' Temple, Manasha Mandir, Jhalong.



Gorumara National Park



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Jhargram JUNGLE MAHAL | RURAL

On 4th April 2017, Jhargram district was formed after separation of Jhargram sub-division from the erstwhile Paschim Medinipur district. A decade back, the region was severely impacted by Left wing extremism (LWE). In the recent years, the wooded beauty of Jhargram's Jungle Mahal, have turned it into a popular tourist destination.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 3038 sq km

Population: 11.36 Lakh

ST population: 29.37%

Sex ratio: 978

Labour Force: 45.29%

Literacy: 70.92%

NEET: 28.31%

Major Employers



+ Large industries in iron ore refining & cement manufacturing.

+ Huge availability of NTFP products, cultivation of Sabai grass & Tasar.

- Low literacy rate.

- Lack of adequate skilling infrastructure & training centers.

ABOUT JHARGRAM

Local art and crafts: Stone carving

Tourism Spots: Belpahari, Jhargram Raj Palace, Chilkigarh Raj Palace, Rameshwar Temple, Topovan

Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



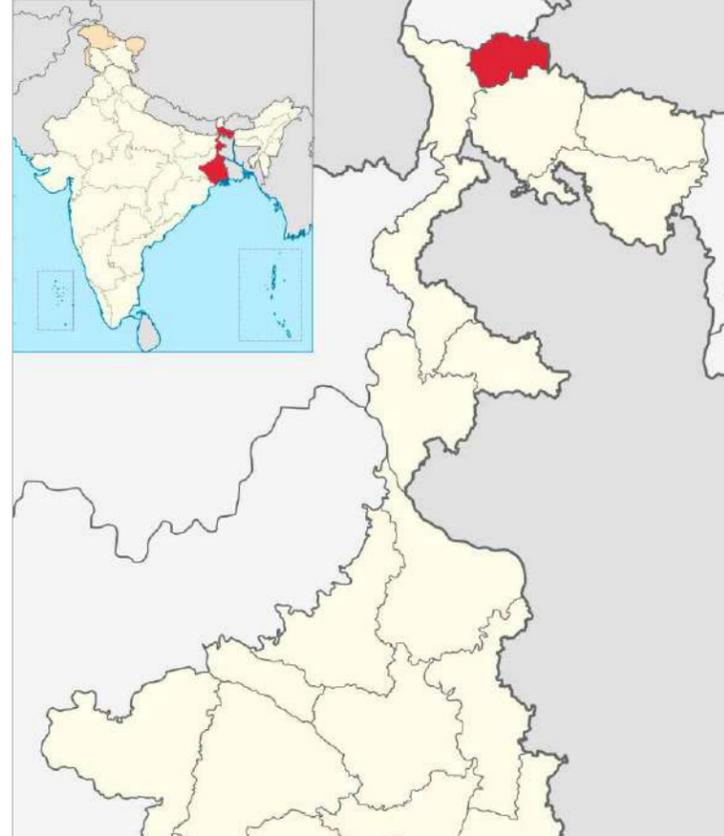
Potential Skill Sectors



Electrician | Plumber | Automotive | Banking & Finance | Food Processing | Tourism.



Jhargram Raj Palace



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Kalimpong HILL DISTRICT | RURBAN

Kalimpong situated at the altitude of 1300 metres on the eastern part of Darjeeling Himalayas. The attraction of mighty Himalayas, pristine beauty of Dooars, dense virgin flora, enchanting valleys, meadows and chilling weather have placed Kalimpong district on the map of most important tourist destinations in the Eastern Himalayas. Kalimpong is home to the most diverse varieties of orchids, cactus and ornamental plants.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 1075 sq km

Population: 49,403

SC/ST Population: 36.31%

Gender ratio: 935

Literacy: 73.60%

Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism & Hospitality | Human Resource

+ Academically Moderate

+ Renowned for Tea, Jam, Jelly, Pickle

+ Agro-based food processing, food-packing industries help in shaping socio-economic life of Kalimpong.

- Lack of large and medium industries

- Lack of employment opportunities

- Lack of entrepreneurial zeal

Major Employers



ABOUT KALIMPONG

Local art and crafts: wooden crafts, sweaters, metal crafts.

Tourism Spots: Zang Dhok Palri Phodang Monastery, Morgan House, Nature Interpretation Centre Ecologica, Dr. graham's Homes, St. Teresa's Church, Lepcha museum etc.



Zang Dhok Palri Phodang

**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Kolkata

CAPITAL | URBAN | METROPOLITAN

The 'city of joy', Kolkata, located on the eastern bank of the river Bhagirathi-Hooghly with the oldest operating port – the sole major riverine port of India - harbors a diverse multicultural history. With the country's pioneer institutions for modern education established in and around the city Kolkata enrich culture and vision for the entire eastern India. As a seat of multiple niche markets, heritage legacy, international air-water-road-rail connectivity, Kolkata holds the potential of becoming a leading industrial and commercial hub in the entire Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) region.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 210 sq km
Population: 44.9 Lakhs
SC/ST population: 5.2%
Gender ratio: 889
Literacy: 87%
Labour Force: 40.57%
NEET: 31.43%

ABOUT KOLKATA

Local art and crafts: Tollywood, Batik, Shola, Fish-scale Art, Copper Repose Art, etc.
Tourism Spots: Indian Museum, Victoria Memorial, Birla Planetarium, Eden Gardens, High Court, Howrah Bridge, GPO, Raj Bhavan, Fort William, Princep Ghat, Alipore Zoo, Asiatic Society, Netaji Bhavan, Jorashanko Thakurbari, Marbel Palace, Cossipur Udyan Bati, Kalighat, Suriname Ghat, Tipu Sultan's Mosque, Nakhoda Mosque, Parsnath Jain Temple, Zoroastrian Anjuman Atash Adaran Fire Temple, Gurudwara Sant Kutuya, St. Paul's Cathedral, El-Bethel Synagogue, Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple, Rabindra Sadan, Nehru Children's Museum, Science City, Birla Science Museum, Birla Art Gallery, Tollygunge Studio, Ravindra Sarovar, Kumartuli, China Town, etc.



Major Livelihoods

Service sector | Self & family businesses & enterprises | Unorganized informal sector | Freelancing | Consultancy | Hawkery | Education sector | Printing | Media and Entertainment.

Niche Products

Trade & Commerce | BFSI, Telecom | IT & ITES | Electronics & Hardware | Leather | Construction | Healthcare | Apparels & made-ups | Textile & Handloom | Handicrafts & Carpet | Gems & Jewelleries | Beauty & Wellness | Food & Beverage | Tourism & Hospitality

Potential Skill Sectors

Entrepreneurship | Digital Marketing | Multisector-Electrical-Fitter-Plumber | Urban management | Water Supply-Sewerage | Waste Management & Remediation activities | Urban Forest - Environment & Renewable Energy Management | Fire-safety & Disaster Management | Heritage conservation-restoration-and management | Media & Entertainment | Domestic Help | App-based jobs | Logistics & Delivery | Modern Printing Management.

- + Cultural diversity
- + Many Structured Markets
- + Heritage & Legacy
- + Rich education
- + International recognition
- + Major industry HQs
- + State HQ with offices
- + Willingness in Leaders
- Fragmented employment
- Unorganized sectors
- Low entrepreneurial zeal among educated mass
- Fragmented administration in layers
- Working in silos
- Lack of holistic planning

**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Malda

ASPIRATIONAL | RURAL DISTRICT

Malda the Northern Part of West Bengal, is rich in Culture and heritage, Once the Capital of Bengal and ruled by Gour Dynasty. It is bounded by International Country Bangladesh in an area of 148 sq.km. and border with the district Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Mursidabad and State Bihar and Jharkhand. Malda district soil is very fertile and favourable for Agriculture, Horticulture, fisheries etc. Two Important rivers The Ganges and the Mahananda flows through the district, Malda is the largest producer of Mango in the country producing 240 different varieties.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products

Food Processing | Jute Products | Clay Products | Bamboo crafts | Silk Products | Makhana Making | Carpet Weaving

Potential Skill Sectors



Handicrafts | Human Resource | Carpet waving | Food processing.



Adina Mosque

Size (area in sq km): 3733 sq km
Population: 41 Lakhs
SC/ST Population: 31%
Gender ratio: 939
Literacy: 62.71%
Labour Force: 50%



- + Academically Moderate
- + Renowned for silk and jute products.
- + Agro-based food processing, food-packing industries and handlooms play key role in shaping socio-economic life of Malda
- + Horticulture like mango, litchi seasonal fruits boost the economy of Malda District,
- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Low awareness

ABOUT MALDA

Local art and crafts: Jute products, Bamboo Crafts, Pottery and Clay Products.
Tourism Spots: Gour Palace, Malda Museum, Adina Mosque etc.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Medinipur (West)

LWE AFFECTED | RURBAN

Paschim Medinipur lies in the southern part of Bengal, shares its border with Orissa. It is prone to natural disasters such as flood, cyclone etc. The district has got GI tag for Patachitra and Madur-Kathi (Mat)

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Handicrafts | Tourism | Human Resource

Size (area in sq km): 6308 sq km

Population: 4776909

SC/ST population: 30.19%

Sex ratio: 963

Literacy: 79.57%

Labour Force: 44.76%



- + Academically strong
- + Presence of renowned industry players like Tata Hitachi, Tata Metalliks, DALmia Cement, Orissa Metalliks etc.

- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

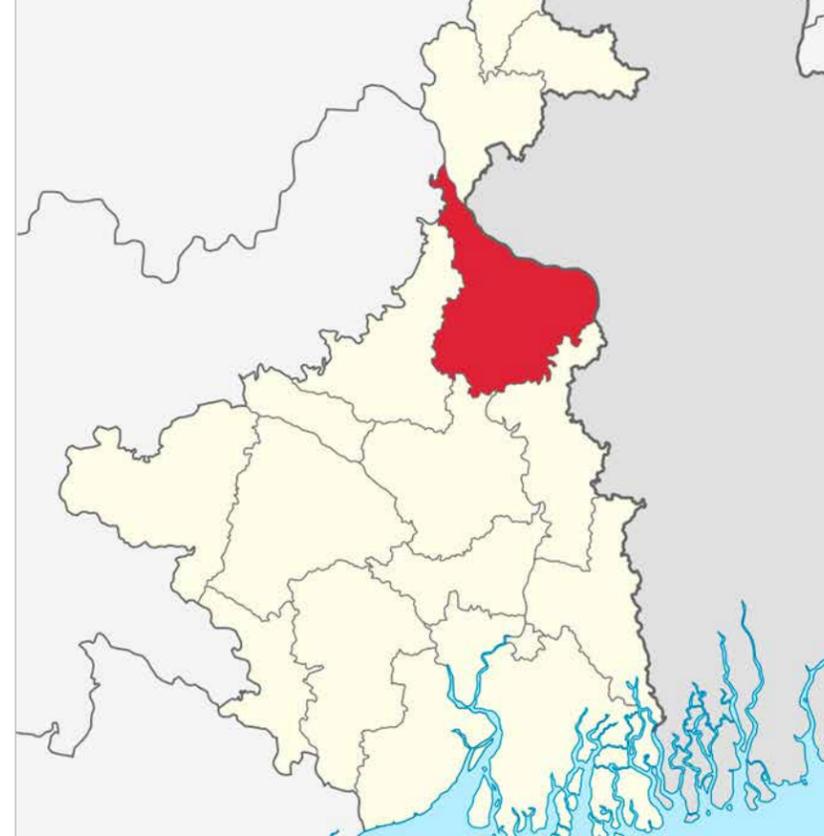
ABOUT PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

Tourism Spots: Karnagarh Temple, Rani shiromani Garh, Grand Canyon of Garhbeta, Monglapota Palace, Moghalmari, Kurunbera fort, Patra etc.



Malleshwar Shiva Temple

Aatchala Khargesvara Temple



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Murshidabad

ASPIRATIONAL | BORDER | RURAL

Murshidabad is the third most populous of the districts of West Bengal. It used to be the capital of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha prior to British rule. Located at a centre of West Bengal, it shares its borders with Nadia, Birbhum, Maldah, East Burdwan. It has enormous opportunities for skill development in its own rich tradition, culture, handicrafts and artifacts.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products

Mango | Sholapith | Brass and Bell metal | Murshidabad Silk | Beedi

Potential Skill Sectors

Tourism | MSME | Food Processing | Public works | Khadi | Green jobs

- + High labour force
- + Geographical advantage
- + Fertile land
- + Tourist attraction
- + Popular for its local industries
- Lack of skilled manpower
- Highest producer of Migrants in the state
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Low literacy rate

Major Employers



Size (area in sq km): 5,324 sq km

Population: 7,103,807

SC/ST Population: 14%

Gender ratio: 955

Literacy: 63.88%

Labour Force: 77%

ABOUT MURSHIDABAD

Local art and crafts: Murshidabad Silk, Ivory works, Shola works, Clay pottery, Soft toys, vermicompost.

Tourism Spots: Hazarduari, Motijheel, Kathgola Baganbari, Katra Masjid, Karna Subarna, Nashipur, Karna Subarna, Farakka Barrage.



Katra Masjid

Bari Kothi

Nadia ASPIRATIONAL | RURAL

Nadia district situated at the heart of Bengal delta within the arms of Ganga. Tropic of cancer divides the district into two parts. On the east and south-east it is bounded by Republic of Bangladesh. Krishnanagar town is the district headquarter of Nadia. Kalyani is another important town of the district and subdivisional headquarter. Two engineering colleges and AIIMS Kalyani have added laurel to its crown.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Size (area in sq km): 3927 sq km
Population: 51.67 Lakhs
SC/ST population: 32.65%
Gender ratio: 947
Labour Force: 45.13%
Literacy: 74.97%
NEET: 30.82%

Major Employers



- + Academically Moderate
- + Renowned for cotton handloom Tant textile craft
- + Agro-based food processing, food-packing industries and handlooms play key role in shaping socio-economic life of Nadia

- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Low awareness

ABOUT NADIA

Local art and crafts: Tant saree, Ghumi clay doll, Jute products

Tourism Spots: Nabadwip Dham, ISKCON temple Mayapur, Plassey gate, Bethuadahari Forest, Krishnanagar Rajbari.



Iskcon Temple Mayapur

North 24 Parganas

BORDERING DISTRICT | URBAN- RURAL

North 24 Parganas district is one of the highest populous district in India and proud to have the birth place of the famous writer, novelist and creator (Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) of "Bande Mataram" the National Song of India. The District has an international border with Bangladesh in the east spreading for about 230 Km. There is an IT hub at Salt Lake in my district.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Food Processing | Aerospace & Aviation | Apparel | Domestic Workers | IT-ITeS | Green Jobs | Tourism

Size (area in sq km): 4094 Sq.km
Population: 10,009,781
SC/ST Population: 21.67% & 2.64%
Sex ratio: 955
Labour Force: 43.63%
Literacy: 84.06%
NEET: 32.6%

Major Employers



- + Rising Apparel park
- + IT hub at Salt Lake
- + Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport located at Dum Dum.
- + One of the highest populous district in India.
- + Presence of renowned industry players like TCS, Wipro, IBM, Electrosteel casting etc.

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Unavailability of market relevant courses.
- Less female participation in vocational courses, ITI.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT NORTH 24 PARGANAS

Local art and crafts: Jute Items, Terracotta, Pottery, Imitation Jewellery, Kantha Stitch etc.

Tourism Spots: Dakshineswar, Nicco Park, Eco Park, Gandhi Ghat, Adyapith Temple, Rabindra Tirtha, Aquatica, Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, Taki etc.



Dakshineswar Kali Temple



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Paschim Bardhaman | URBAN

Paschim Bardhaman District is mostly an urban mining-industrial district. Coal reserves may be found all over the district. The establishment of large industrial units such as ISSCO, Durgapur Steel Plant, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, and hundreds of industries has cemented the district's identity as a major industrial hub in eastern India.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Potential Skill Sectors



Mining | Service Sector | Iron & Steel | Electronics & Hardware | Green Jobs | Food Processing

Major Employers



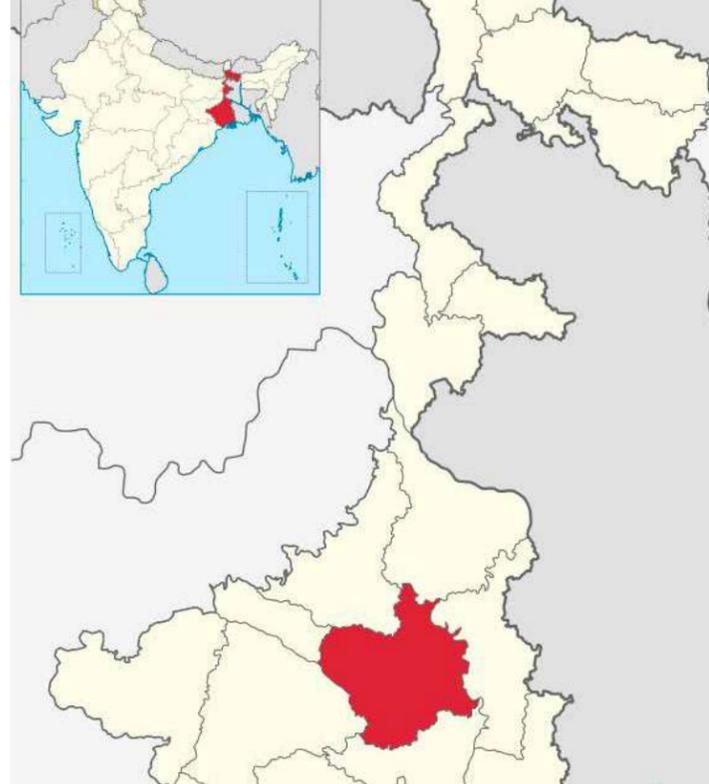
Nehru Park, Burnpur

Size (area in sq km): 1,603 sq km
Population: 28.82 Lakh
SC/ST population: 7.90 Lakh
Gender ratio: 922
Literacy: 78.75%
Labour Force: 45%
Gram Panchayat: 62

- + Highly Industrialized District.
 - + Industries like mining, engineering, iron & steel, consumer goods, electronics & hardware manufacturing of industrial electrical goods accessories etc. had a large concentration in the district.
-
- Lack of skilled manpower
 - Lack of demands
 - Low entrepreneurial zeal
 - Lack of credit delivery process for local entrepreneurs.

ABOUT PASCHIM BARDHAMAN

Tourism Spots: Garh Jungle, Maithon, Ichhai Ghoser Deul, Churulia, Ramakrishna Mission, Ghagar Buri Temple.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Purba Bardhaman | RURBAN

Purba Bardhaman District is more commonly known as the Rice Bowl of west Bengal due to intensive production of Rice, Wheat and Potato throughout the year. The District with its advantageous position in transportation network and good resource endowments has the potential to become a major satellite city for the capital city.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



108 Shiv Mandir

Size (area in sq km): 5,432.69 sq km
Population: 48.35 Lakh
SC/ST Population: 32.22%
Gender ratio: 943
Literacy: 77.15%
Labour Force: 41.69%
NEET: 34.96%

Major Employers



- + Largest Agricultural Hub of West Bengal
 - + Good Connectivity with other parts of Eastern India
 - + Huge scope for tourism from nearby Places
 - + Prospective Center for Health and Educational Infrastructure
-
- Lack of Industries in district
 - High drop out rates among rural youths
 - Low entrepreneurial zeal
 - Self Employment opportunities remain unexplored

ABOUT PURBA BARDHAMAN

Local art and crafts: Dokra Art, Wood Carving.
Tourism Spots: Curzon gate, 108 Shiv Mandir, The Deer Park, Tomb of Sher Afghan, Meghnad Saha Planetarium, Krishnasayar Park and Lake.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Purba Medinipur

Purba Medinipur is known for its history and political movement it witnessed in past. This is the only district of West Bengal which have such large coastal area. Formed on 1st January 2002, from erstwhile Midnapore District Shares it borders with Howrah, Paschim Medinipur & South 24 Parganas Major town- Haldia, Tamluk Strategic Location – Coast of Bay of Bengal Prone to floods and cyclone. Haldia Petro Chemical Hub.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Bargabhma temple

Size (area in sq km): 3038 sq km

Population: 11.36 Lakh

ST population: 29.37%

Labour Force: 45.29%

Gender ratio: 978

Literacy: 70.92%

NEET: 28.31%

Major Employers



- + Rising Industrial Hub
- + Presence of renowned 43 industry players like IOCL, Adani wilmar, MCPI, HUL etc.
- + Presence of Haldia port.
- + SHGs activity is high.
- + Lots of potential in fishery industry.
-
- Low literacy rate.
- Lack of adequate skilling infrastructure & training centers.

ABOUT PURBA MEDINIPUR

Local art and crafts: Horn Craft, Pata Chitra, Sea Shell, Mat & Mat Diversified Products, Brass & Bell Metal, Diversified Jute Products, Cane & Bamboo Products, Sola Craft, Pottery/ Terracotta, Wood Craft, Zari work.

Tourism Spots: JUNPUT, DIGHA, Mahishadal Rajbari, Mandarmani.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Purulia JUNGLE MAHAL | RURAL

Purulia, the westernmost district of West Bengal mainly composed of Rural population with four major cities. Ancient Junglemahal lies mainly in Purulia with Tribal population and culture. Few large large industry in Sponge iron, steel & power ,cement, thermal power plant contributes more in economy with agriculture and tourism.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Niche Products



Potential Skill Sectors



Data Entry Operator | Mason | Welder | Electrician | Lac cultivator | Automotive | Banking & Finance | Food Processing

- + Large industries in Sponge iron, Power & steel sector, Power plants, Cement factories.
- + Agriculture, dairy farming, Poultry rearing, Lac cultivation, MSME.



Ayodhya Hills

Size (area in sq km): 6,259 sq km

Population: 29.30 Lakh

SC/ST Population: 37.82%

Gender ratio: 955

Labour Force: 34.52

Literacy: 65.38%

NEET: 32.13%

Major Employers



- Lack of connectivity with major cities and with tribal population.
- Low entrepreneurial zeal
- Awareness amongst tribal population about digitalisation.

ABOUT KALIMPONG

Local art and crafts: Mukhosh (Mask), Lac Jewellery, Chou Nach.

Tourism Spots: Ayodhya Hill, Turga Falls, PPSP Dams, Dawri Khal, Tribal culture, Panchakot Raj place, Joychandi pahar,



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

South 24 Parganas

RURAL | SEMI URBAN

South 24 Parganas is the largest and second most populous district of West Bengal. What makes the district unique is its location where on one side there is urban fringe of Kolkata, the capital city and remote riverine Sundarbans. Peri urban areas are the regions that surrounds Kolkata thus comprising of major employment sectors. Rural regions of this district has huge natural resources and prove to be huge source of employment. The mangrove vegetation of Sundarbans are the natural resources of the region. On 1st March 1986 South 24 Parganas re organized as a fully functional district.

Skill Training Institutes



Size (area in sq km): 9960 sq km

Population: 81.62 Lakhs

SC/ST population: 31.38%

Gender ratio: 956

Literacy: 77.51%

Labour Force: 38.14%

NEET: 34.38%

Major Employers



Mineral, Jute, Leather & Food Processing

ABOUT SOUTH 24 PARGANAS

Local art and crafts: Zari work, Jute, Wood carving.

Tourism Spots: Henry island, Sagar island (pilgrimage spot too), Sundarbans National Park, Bawali Raj bari (heritage hotel)

Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Industrial Labour and Service

Niche Products



Leather



Honey



Joynagar's Moa

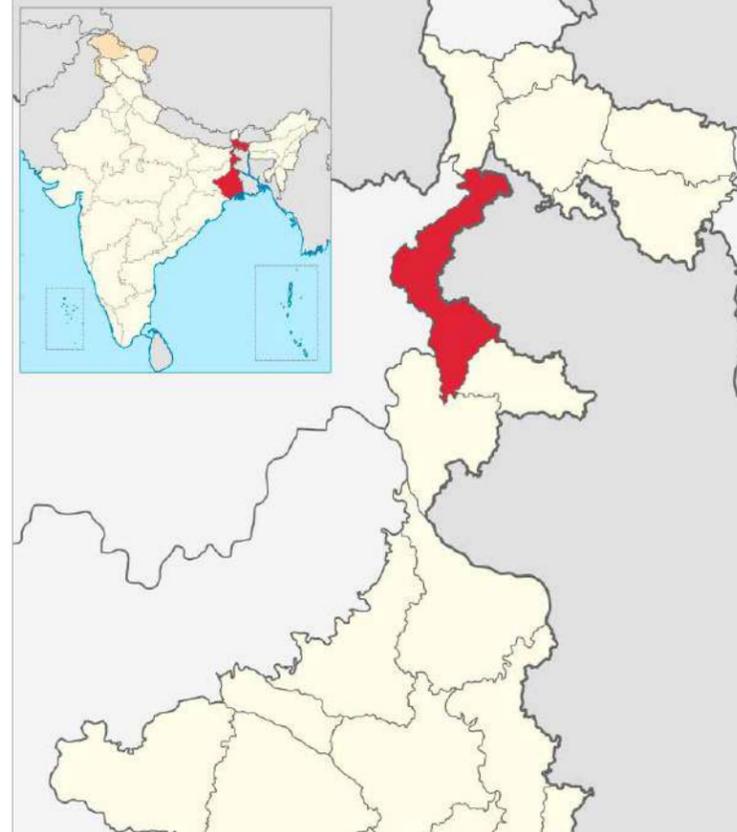
Potential Skill Sectors



Tourism | Agriculture

- + Huge scope in agriculture and forestry.
- + Tourism is an upcoming opportunity that the district has started work on.
- + Presence of many food processing industries.
- + The mangroves of Sundarbans have huge medicinal values, may be utilized.

- Don't want to relocate for work.
- Less motivation for entrepreneurship.



**REGION
WEST
BENGAL**

Uttar Dinajpur

BORDER DISTRICT | RURAL

Uttar Dinajpur district is a border district of the Indian state of West Bengal. It shares its boundaries with Dakshin Dinajpur and Maldah District of West Bengal and also shares international borders with Bangladesh. Uttar Dinajpur is well connected with other districts of the state through National Highways, State Highways and Railways.

Skill Training Institutes



Major Livelihoods



Agriculture



Industrial Labour



Small Businesses

Self Employment

Niche Products



Dairy Products



Jam and Jelly

Potential Skill Sectors



Jute Processing | Food Processing | Gold Jewellery | Bamboo & Jute Handicrafts



Raiganj Bird Sanctuary

Size (area in sq km): 3142 sq km

Population: 33.90 Lakhs

SC/ST Population: 32.3%

Gender ratio: 939

Labour Force: 37.18%

Literacy: 59.07%

NEET: 35.79%

Major Employers



- + Change in Patriarchal Mindset
- + Rising Industrial Hub (Food Processing)
- + Advantage of a booming Demographic Dividend

- Lack of skilled manpower
- High attrition rates
- Low entrepreneurial zeal

ABOUT UTTAR DINAJPUR

Local art and crafts: Terracotta Pottery, Jute Dhokra Craft.

Tourism Spots: Raiganj Bird Sanctuary, Kali Temple at Baira, Bhairabi Temple at Bindole, Sap-nikla forest, Burhana Fakir Mosque.

Meet the MGNF team



AARAV JAIN

Aarav has been deputed to the Chandigarh district. He holds a PGD in Advertising and Marketing Communication and has experience of five years in solving brand problems and launching brands such as StayHappy Pharmacy, Trutest Laboratories and many more. Apart from cooking delicious meals and seeking to keep learning, he spends his time reading and writing poetry. You can also catch him watching movies, making memes and playing PES. He believes it has become crucial in today's new normal where people are feeling left out and lack self-confidence, to commit to a program such as this - that can support, ease and empower millions of lives and contribute towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' He is looking at building a career in Public Policy domain after the completion of the fellowship.



Chandigarh

AJAY SINGH

Being a Political Science graduate, Ajay always had the inclination to work and make change at the grassroots, owing to which he has been working in the development sector for the past six years. Ajay started off as a teacher in a government school in Delhi through the Teach For India Fellowship. Post that he founded an NGO in Ranthambhore, working on holistic village development. Later he worked as a CSR Consultant for a MNC. Recently he moved to Ladakh to set up a social enterprise to create local handicrafts. Building on these experiences, his intent to join MGNF in Ladakh is to act as a bridge between the work on the ground and the policy level interventions made by the government.



Leh | Ladakh

ANAMIKA BHARTI

Anamika Bharti, is currently deployed as a Mahatma Gandhi National fellow in Kathua district. She graduated as Information Technology engineer from NIT Srinagar. After this, she completed her MBA in business analyst from Chandigarh University with expertise in HR, designing and digital marketing. She was an active member of the scouts and guides. Further, she has worked along with various NGOs for several social causes, with a special interest in inculcating divergent learning techniques in early education. She is committed towards creating conducive environments for multidisciplinary thought process, that encourages conscious learning among the youth and women.

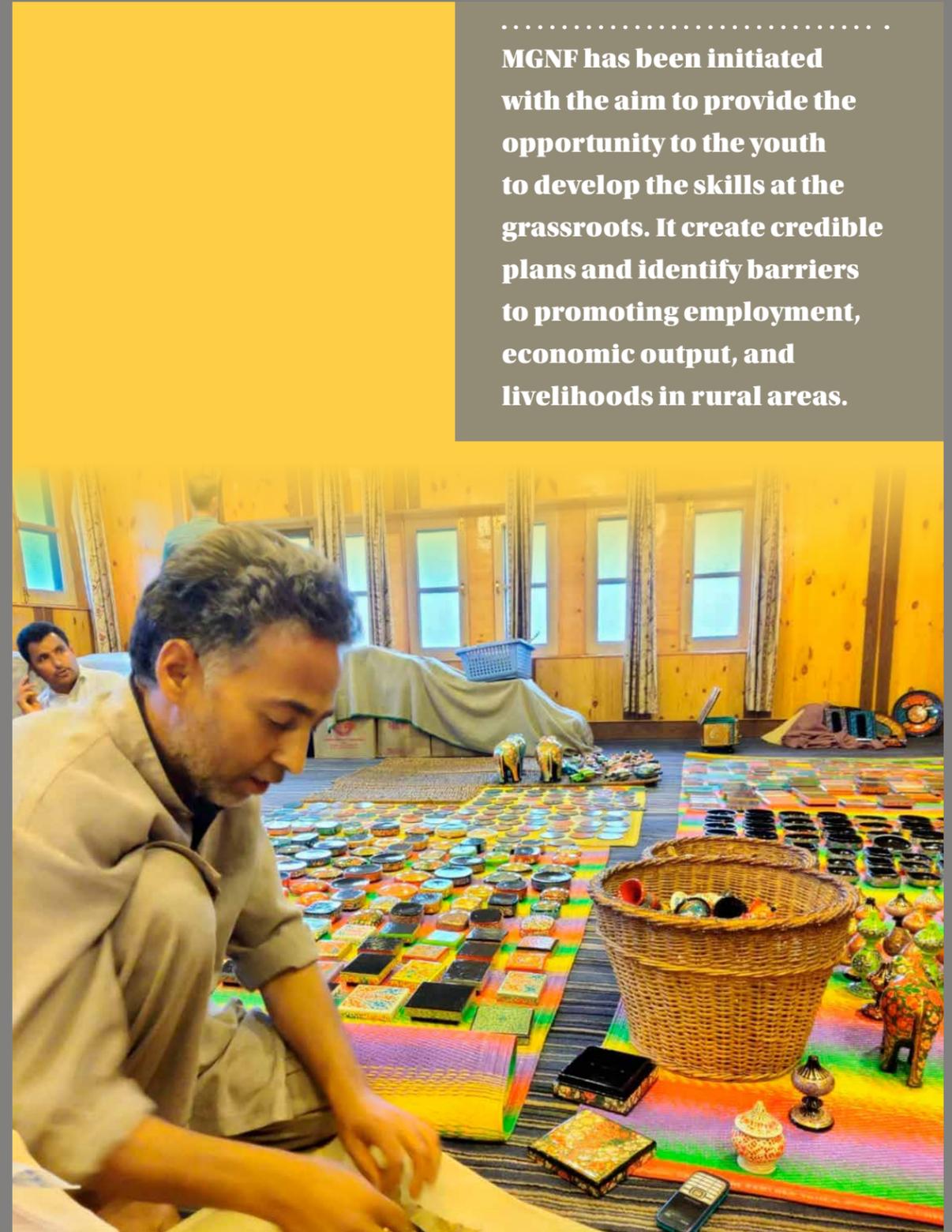
.....
**Kathua |
Jammu & Kashmir**



ANANYA AJATASATRU

Ananya has his Masters in Economics from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. His research interests primarily involve in topics pertaining to community driven development, environmentally sustainable economy, role of currency and exchanges in influencing societal structure. Apart from being an ardent student of Economics, he holds a special interest in the history of thought and ideas relating to interconnectedness between science, technology and society. He advocates for the heterodox, with an interdisciplinary approach to research and learning.

.....
Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir



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MGNF has been initiated with the aim to provide the opportunity to the youth to develop the skills at the grassroots. It create credible plans and identify barriers to promoting employment, economic output, and livelihoods in rural areas.

FARHANA ISLAM

Farhana is a graduate in English Literature, currently pursuing Public Policy and Management with interest in community and social development. Having worked actively with AICUF that pledges, “We are born into an unjust society and we are determined not to leave it as we have found it” during her undergraduate degree, her quest and zeal to contribute and bring forth change brought her vis-à-vis with MGNF. Believing in achieving things by the idealism of one’s heart and with the pragmatism of one’s head, she describes herself as quintessentially unconventional and as an inveterate optimist. A cinephile at heart and always keen on capturing life through pictures, she believes in taking one day at a time.



.....
Hoogly | West Bengal

GIRIRAJ SINGH

Giriraj is a chemical engineer by education from MITS, Gwalior. He has varied interests from a wide range of fields. A history buff with particular interest in early 20th century, he is also an avid follower of tech and keeps up to date with the recent happenings and developments in the digital space. He is also concerned about the sustainable future and muses for an effective framework for shared responsibilities. The renewable energy and cyclical approach to our civilizational needs is of particular interest to him including and not limited to up and coming new technologies and techniques. He also has interest in global economies and their evolution. He keeps himself updated with the diplomatic and strategic plays in the world as well. He writes sometimes in English as well as Hindi but doesn’t call himself a writer.



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Baramulla | Jammu & Kashmir



GAURAV PANDEY

Gaurav Pandey has a Master of Planning degree with Specialization in Urban and Regional Planning from IEST Shibpur. Coming from a civil engineering background Gaurav has worked previously in Gammon India construction Pvt. Ltd before moving to the planning field. Gaurav looks forward to working closely with district administration in improving skill development, link market and create self reliable growth for the district. Currently, he is posted in Purba Bardhaman District as an MGN Fellow.

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Purba Bardhaman | West Bengal



HAFEEZ HACKLA

Hafeez has completed his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from NIT Srinagar. He is passionate about social causes and has worked extensively in developing counter narratives to violent extremism. He also won the “Voice Positive Challenge” in 2018 organized by the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and Facebook India. He believes in unity through economic interdependence and is hence committed to grassroots development. Famous for many breathtaking views and tourist spots, Ganderbal has shown its potential by securing second position in Human Resource Development in District Good Governance Index Jammu & Kashmir 2022. Hafeez is now working to absorb this Human Resource within the district by promoting the Entrepreneurship potential of the youth. Fellow has helped in restructuring the District Skill Committee of Ganderbal and formation of sub-committees. Fellow will be recording the success stories of the entrepreneurs and will use them to motivate the youth of the district to opt for Entrepreneurship.

.....
Ganderbal | Jammu & Kashmir

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Its medium to major benefits are that it strengthens institutions and improves link markets along with skill development, and also provides an opportunity to engage with schemes and institutions at the district level for development.



HAPPY DEBNATH

Happy hails from the historical city of Chandannagar in West Bengal, and loves to travel and explore new places, people, cultures and learn something new about each place she visits. Her traveller spirit guided her to take up Geography in graduation from Bijoy Krishna Girl's College, Howrah, Kolkata. To study rural India deeply, Happy pursued Rural Development in Masters and post completion joined a school in Chandannagar to share with young kids all knowledge she gathered in her travel through life. Imparting knowledge, for Happy, is the greatest good one does to society and looks forward to link knowledge, skills, and livelihood for societal upliftment through her contributions as Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow for Nadia, West Bengal, another district in West Bengal with rich history, and culture.



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Nadia | West Bengal

IFFAT ARA PARVEEN

The urge to contribute towards social welfare drives Iffat since her childhood in Kolkata. Iffat holds an Economics Honours from Christ University and a Masters in Development with Law, Governance and Policy specialization from Azim Premji University. She contributed in Swachh Bharat Mission as a Tata Trusts Consultant for Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in farfetched rural backdrop of Karnataka and Bihar. With Directorate of School Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Iffat worked for uplifting education in a remote tribal block near the POK; and with District Administration of Tumkur she aided in drafting and planning SVEEP activities for Karnataka State Legislative Assembly Elections 2018. Her experiences inspired her to prepare for Civil Services and shaped her in viewing and understanding things with different perspectives. With her deep rooted passion to work in the development sector, Iffat joined the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme to learn the ability to identify barriers, design policies, and in the process promote to the growth of society and Nation.



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Jalpaiguri | West Bengal

JOASH VARGHESE

Joash is a Computer Science Engineering graduate from Cochin University of Science and Technology. Having spent initial years after graduation preparing for Civil Services he later worked with an NGO in development sector working among Afghan refugees. His work involved planning and providing relief, rehabilitation and livelihood options in the community and was especially involved in providing quality education to the youth. Since joining MGNF he is deputed in Rajouri district as part of the District Immersion Program.

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Rajouri | Jammu & Kashmir



MRIGANKA MONDAL

Mriganka is a multi-faceted personality, who studies Public Policy & Development academically, aspires to be a bureaucrat, is a poet by heart, painter by passion and loves to believe that he is a prolific public speaker. His shortcomings definitely include his over-optimism, emotion driven reaction to situations and at times being a bit to rigid when it comes to ideals. If he suddenly goes missing you are sure to find him inside a quiet park nearby, reading anything from Pamuk to David Malone, sipping his meticulously prepared coffee (yes, he is obsessively picky when it comes to tea/coffee). P.S.- Someday if you land up in Kolkata, try to contact him once; you will never find another person who knows the city better. He is one of the best person to take you on a guided tour of the city.

.....
Birbhum | West Bengal



MANUJENDER SINGH

Manujender Singh holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and has experience of race tracks like SAE-SUPRA and IGC. He also holds Google certification in digital sales. He has over 3 years of experience of both DS model and inside sales. Before joining fellowship he worked with Byjus, Uday and Aladdin Technologies in sales and business development. Now he is focused to get insights on policy making and implementation at ground level with practical exposure and inputs from IIMJ.

.....
Doda | Jammu & Kashmir



MRINAL KANTI SAHA

Mrinal K Saha is currently deployed in Murshidabad, one of the aspirational districts in West Bengal. He studied Honours in English Literature and Master of Social Work, with the specialization in Community Organization and Development Practice. Previously he has worked in NGOs where his primary work was on preventing Sex trafficking, child trafficking. He has played pivotal role in sensitizing, spreading awareness and mobilizing communities along with Government Stakeholders. The beneficiaries of his work include Sex workers - especially minors, POCSO victims, Child Labours etc. He also interned in Pune Zilla Parishad for the campaign of Soak Pits Construction where he worked closely with Bureaucrats and facilitated the process for 25000 family's access to Soak Pits. His other work areas include working in Indian Political Action Committee and serving as volunteer for Indian Red Cross Society for disaster management, blood donation and other forms of charitable activities. While doing his studies and working in other domains, he acknowledged the need of livelihoods and wide skill gap between the industry demand and supply side. Therefore, he joined the MGNF for being an active participant in the Skill Development process. He aspires to be a scholar, a man of letter, a Marxist intellectual who serves for society with Public Interest.

.....
Murshidabad | West Bengal

MUHAMMED RASHID

Muhammed Rashid hails from Ramallur, a small village in Calicut, Kerala. He has obtained his graduation in Political Science honors from Hindu College, University of Delhi. Since his higher secondary school days, he had been an active member of NSS. In college, he held the portfolio of library minister. He was lucky enough to tour to remotest areas in Kerala and perform skill-based education expos as part of the NGO IFER Academy. He worked as a UPSC trainer at Wisdom Educational Foundation of India. MGNF proved to be a breakthrough chance for him as he resolved to research further in skill development, particularly with government machinery. As a MGN fellow, he believes he can make a substantial contribution to the district Budgam's skill ecosystem.

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Rajouri | Jammu & Kashmir



NABARUN SENGUPTA

Hailing from the city of Dhanbad, Jharkhand, Nabarun completed his M.A. in Development Studies in May 2021, from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, after completing his under-graduation in economics from University of Calcutta. Having a strong interest in policy related to education and skill development, he joined the MGN Fellowship to move beyond the research realm to the policy domain. Getting mentorship from professors of IIM Jammu, coupled with the scope for district immersion is something which strongly aligns with his field research interests. With these exposures, his motivation would be to contribute meaningfully to the skill development space in the assigned district of Cooch Behar, West Bengal, for sustainable development of the district, based on evidence based policy decisions

.....
Coochbehar | West Bengal



MUHAMMED SALIM CK

Muhammed Salim has completed his Masters in Public Administration from Aligarh Muslim University. During his Bachelors he was actively involved in activities of different palliative care units in Kerala. He has also participated in the mission of initiating a palliative care unit in Aligarh in the name of Aligarh Initiative of Palliative Care-AIPC which aimed to improve the quality of life of patients who are facing physical and psychological illness. His long term goal is to work towards inclusive social change. He opted for MGNF as an ideal opportunity towards generating livelihoods from untapped potential of the valley's remote district of Kupwara.

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Kupwara | Jammu & Kashmir



NEERAJ SINGH

Neeraj Singh was born and brought up in Lucknow Uttar Pradesh. He completed his Bachelor of Technology in Plastics Engineering from Central Institute of Plastics (Petrochemicals) Engineering & Technology Headquartered in Chennai. After cracking GATE 2017 with AIR 179 in the XE branch he joined Toshiba Machine Chennai as an executive engineer for Injection Molding and Industrial Auxiliary Machinery. Due to his deep interest in social development and desire to be directly involved in vulnerable section development he thoroughly prepared for civil services examination. On October 25th he joined the MGNF program of MSDE which is in line with his career goal too.

.....
Shopian | Jammu & Kashmir

NILANJAN GHOSH

Nilanjan Ghosh was born and brought up in Falakata, a small town in Alipurduar, West Bengal. He completed graduation from IHM Kolkata, in Hospitality and Hotel Administration in 2019. Then, he moved to Noida to pursue Masters in the same from NCHM-IH, Noida. When the Covid hit India, he witnessed the misery of the people from his neighbourhood who worked as labourers in different parts of India and that changed his perspective about what he want to do in life. The reason behind applying for MGNF was that it not only provides him with a unique opportunity to learn from the great minds of IIMs but also work closely with the government in finding solutions at the ground level. He wants to work in the skill development and entrepreneurial sector in the future, so that he can create opportunities for people to find livelihood without leaving homes & families. He says Covid has taught him that 'If you have the skills, you can even earn while sitting at home'.

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Alipurduar | West Bengal



NIRUPAMA M

Nirupama is someone who is passionate about working in, studying and knowing about the impact of public policy interventions, livelihoods and societal dynamics. Public policy, psychology and contemporary sociology are topics she often goes to. She also likes to sing and is deeply grateful to the entire IIM-J MGNF cohort for valuing and enjoying her singing so much. She paints, and occasionally writes poems. She also takes gardening seriously, with a particular focus on growing roses. While her experiences in career and education go a long way back, she is someone who believes in taking in each day and experience as an opportunity to learn something or discover insights. She's always up for great conversations, music jams, and poetry recitals.

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Karaikal | Puducherry



NILESH SHARMA

Nilesh Sharma is a gold medalist in Aeronautical Engineering from Rajasthan Technical University having interest in Physics, Sports and community service. With a zeal to contribute in nation's development, believes in optimization of knowledge, ideas and resources. Being a multitasking procrastinator strongly believes that instead of development, SOCIAL METAMORPHOSIS is the need of hour and aims to accomplish the same by a simple logic, "Crazy enough to blast you into space and smart enough to bring you back".

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Ramban | Jammu & Kashmir



OINDRILA BASU

Oindrila, a sylvan, is passionate about connecting People and Policies with nature, Culture, and Sustainability – the root of life through her scientific research, actions, creativity, and social engagements for a better world. Her journey as a Bachelors and Masters in Forestry, her field-works in Sundarbans, her association with IUCN, IFSA, her menteeships under wise scientists, scholars, administrators and activists, and learnings from mentoring young minds across globe have shaped her vision and mission in life. Her motivation as a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow is to co-create a skill ecosystem boosting opportunities for green developments sustaining the social, ecological, and economic wellbeing of the country.

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Kolkata | West Bengal

PAULAMI HALDAR

Paulami has completed her M.Sc from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. She has been a history buff and loves to visit new places, observe intricate details of livelihood and deeply understand historic significance of surroundings. Having been closely associated to rural sector from childhood, there has always been an urge to contribute for upliftment of the society. She had an opportunity to facilitate craft based education to rural people while being associated with an NGO for last 3 years. With the passion to positively contribute towards development sector, Paulami got a chance to work closely in the Skill Development Sector as a MGNF fellow and is currently deputed in Bankura district



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Bankura | West Bengal

PRASENJIT DEBBARMA

Prasenjit Debbarma was born and brought up at small Rural Area in Tripura State. He belongs to Tripuri community and has done his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from NIT Agartala. He is currently engaged with Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship under IIM Jammu and posted in Malda District, West Bengal. He aims to work in skill development and Entrepreneurial Sector in near future and work on the livelihood and provide opportunities to the Rural people of our Nation.



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Malda | West Bengal

PRANAY KUMAR

Pranay Kumar has done his Bachelors in Computer Science from Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business studies, University of Delhi. During his bachelor's he was an active member of the Social Entrepreneurship wing of SSCBS - Enactus where he strived to make an impact by targeting the societal needs of the marginalized through development of innovative business models. He was also one of the co-founders of "Project Raahat", which aimed at eradicating open defecation and provision of safe sanitation in urban slum communities, through effective management and monitoring of community toilet complexes, while also sensitizing people on good sanitary practices. He is passionate about music and also was actively part of the theatre group of his college, that organized "Manthan" - one of India's Largest Street Theatre Festival with a vision of widespread change in society through the medium of street theatre.

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Kishtwar | Jammu & Kashmir



PRASHANT GUPTA

Prashant grew up in New Delhi, the capital city of India. A graduate in Political Science and International Relations from University of Delhi, he has keen interest in learning how policies are formulated-implemented in India, their challenges, and search for potential solutions. His choice of Jammu Union Territory for Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship reflects his mission of skilling India for solving pressing issues. He looks forward to the challenging yet fulfilling journey of changing lives.

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Udhampur | Jammu & Kashmir

PRAVIN KUMAR SHAW

Pravin Kumar Shaw is a self learned entrepreneur and business geek. He has Masters of Technology from Jadavpur University. He started his career as an entrepreneur in 2016 and established an IT company. He has 6 years of experience of bringing digital transformation in companies. He joined MGNF to learn and understand the public policy and administration work by working closely with government departments. The ground level experience and learning from the officials on district level will help him to fulfil his aspiration of being a public speaker.

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Howrah | West Bengal



RAJASHI BISWAS

Rajashi Biswas was born and brought in a small town of Howrah. She did her schooling from St. Thomas church school, and pursued B.Sc in economics. Later she went for an MBA in marketing from IISWBM. She has half years of work experience in diverse role such as sales operations and market research and is now working with MSDE as MGNF allocated to Paschim Medinipur.

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Paschim Medinipore | West Bengal



RAGHURAM MANOHARAN

Raghuram believes in taking in each day and experience as an opportunity to learn something or discover insights. A technocrat by profession, he worked for a small time in ISRO as a technology intern. Posted in his home district, Puducherry - a famous tourist destination with a piece of French history influencing the food, culture, and architecture, Raghuram observes the fast development in the sectors of Education, Health, and Tourism with emerging job roles demanding skills. As the MAhatma Gandhi National Fellow for Puducherry, Raghuram hopes to act as a catalyst for all round development of his city, Puducherry.

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Puducherry



RAMANATH DUTTA

Ramanath Dutta was born and brought up at a small village Khano in Purba Bardhaman district in West Bengal. He did his schooling from his village school. Post that he moved to Coochbehar for completing Diploma in Automobile Engineering from Coochbehar Polytechnic. Further, he went on to complete B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering from Haldia Institute of Technology. Starting his career in a steel industry, soon he got dissatisfied with the work. This is when he got an opportunity to join Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship and joined the programme. Development sector open new path for rural people who needs job. He is now working in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and expects lot of positive outcomes in the field of skill development from this district.

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North 24 Parganas | West Bengal

SAGAR BISWAS

As a student, Sagar always admired to gain and experience knowledge of multiple aspects. For living an admirable life we can't bound our thought by certain dimensions. Also taking risk is another strong motive of his life. Lastly he is focused to bring societal change by educating young generation in field of science and technology

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Purulia | West Bengal



SANJHALI JAIN

Sanjhali Jain is the founder of SoulSeed Foundation an NGO working to impart love based Eco-conscious education to the financially underprivileged children. In 2015, she took a new step by beginning the Divine School with her teacher. It initially aims to educate the slum children and gradually included to impart skill-based education to underprivileged children. With time not only it evolved to decipher education as a way of life but also transformed her as a person to dive deep into real truth and consciousness. Along with this, she is an environmentalist, tries her best to adopt Eco-friendly habits and to generate awareness among the Masses, she has been a part of Eco-Mela, a Ludhiana based offline networking platform for Eco-entrepreneurs. She has completed her Masters in Economics. She believes we can only live in the present moment and that too in oneness.

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Samba | Jammu & Kashmir



SAHIL SHARMA

Sahil Sharma, graduated in science stream from GGM Science college which was earlier known as Prince of Wales college. He is dedicated, hardworking, focused personality towards his goal to serve the society. Mahatma Gandhi National fellowship will provide him an opportunity to work at grassroots level to understand the skill ecosystem problem. He'll use this opportunity to evolve himself as a better administrator in future.

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Reasi | Jammu & Kashmir



SANKET DAS

Sanket Das comes from Nagaon, Assam, where he completed education upto Bachelors. Thereafter he moved to Benaras Hindu University to pursue Masters in Statistics. Prior to joining the fellowship Sanket had been working as a Business Developer for Jankalyan Multipurpose Educational Society, an NGO for a few months. He also volunteered with many NGOs throughout his education to serve his passion towards developing the nation. Sanket believes the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship would bolster the holistic development in the country bridging the gap between unplanned urbanization, and skilling needs in rural India. He is inspired to contribute in nation building, and the MGN fellowship presents him with an amazing opportunity to develop his mentorship skills, and realize his long term dream of upskilling the country's young generation towards a mindset of self-reliance. Sanket believes India has great potential and through the learnings from expert IIM faculties, and direct District handholding in the fellowship he would be able to contribute towards the national dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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Pulwama | Jammu & Kashmir

SHIVAM VERMA

Shivam has done his Bachelor's in Humanities and Social Sciences from Delhi University. He is passionate about the art of storytelling across formats, such as through photography, films and creative content. In his work experience of 6 years, he has worked with Tata powers, City Explorers Pvt. Ltd. and Fairpay Technologies. He was an integral part of the three times National Tourism award-winning brand, "India City Walks". As the lead for "India with Locals," which created sustainable tourism products to create positive and lasting change for people and bring greater benefits to communities. He spearheaded the initiative, "City Walks Festival"; intended towards creating a pool of skilled locals to deliver tourism experiences for travelers. He worked closely with several state and local governing agencies in Delhi, UP, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana. His interest in diverse cultures and search for stories among local communities drew him to this fellowship.

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Poonch | Jammu & Kashmir



SK AREF ABDAL

Sk Aref Abdal belongs from Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. He has completed his Masters of Arts in Ecology, Environment and Sustainable Development from TISS-Guwahati. He has worked almost a year as a Research Assistant at Wildlife Institute of India and BITS Pilani. Aref is also a former State Level Athlete of S.A.I-Kolkata and former Elected Sports Secretary of TISS-Guwahati. He is glad to be a son of a farmer, and comes from the rural part of West Bengal, where the poor and marginalised people face challenges everyday. These very reasons motivates him to work for the upliftment of the society through Skill Development Mission, across cast, gender and ethnicity, so that his contribution can bring some changes for making a sustainable and viable society.

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Kalimpong | West Bengal



SIDDHANT SINGH

A graduate in Literature- at least officially. Here to understand how the world runs behind the scenes. Long way from home, with the hope that some part of his efforts end up complementing someone else's. Still attempting trial and error to figure out what people call career and life goals..

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Bandipora | Jammu & Kashmir



MOUSAM RAHMAN

Mausam is working in Jhargram, one of the youngest districts of West Bengal created in 2017 after splitting from the erstwhile Paschim Medinipur district. 3 months into the district immersion module, Mausam is trying to grasp the vastness of government schemes and the enormous range of beneficiaries they cover. The welcome gestures and the resistances to an outsider in the district administrative ecosystem are finally receding for him. His dreams of change are metamorphosing into practical achievable goals. He is hopeful that with his work he will be able to add some value to the existing skilling ecosystem of the district at the end of two years of the fellowship.

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Jhargram | West Bengal



SNEHA S KUMAR

Sneha S Kumar is one among the co founders of the NGO Fireflies which was formed after 2018 Kerala floods and they create volunteering opportunities to people who genuinely wish to contribute their time and skills. Being part of this budding organization she could coordinate and participate in various pilot projects. She had been an active volunteer of National Service Scheme for seven years. She believes the best feeling of happiness is when someone else is happy because of you. Sneha has a master's degree in Chemistry from Central University of Kerala and had worked as an Assistant Professor at KITS Engineering College. While preparing for UPSC civil services examination she got selected as MGN fellow. She is really excited to work in Kashmir division and she finds this unique opportunity of on ground experiences working in close association with District administration under the guidance of MSDE & IIM along with co-fellows from all around the country as an excellent combination of her passion and career goals.



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Kulgam | Jammu & Kashmir

SUHAIL NAZIR

Suhail is a native of the Kashmir valley and is posted as MGNF fellow to district Anantnag, J&K. He holds a bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering whereby he has worked as an intern at Vizag Steel Plant and IIT Kanpur. Before joining the MGNF Fellowship, he has been a management aspirant and was a 99 percentiler in CAT 21'. During his district immersion, he has conducted several awareness drives at the district level and focused mainly on the MSME sector. He has traveled extensively throughout the country and is an avid reader of non-fiction books.



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Anantnag | Jammu & Kashmir



SUBHAJIT DIASI

During pandemic Subhajit Diasi's career turned from core science stream to social stream. In pandemic while working with his society he realised that he drives happiness while serving others. This experience further pushed him to explore social sector. MGNF is an opportunity for him to further develop his social skills and fulfil his aspiration to contribute in nation development.

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Purba Medinipur | West Bengal



SUPRAKASH BANIK

Suprakash hails from the industrial city of Asansol. After completing his Bachelors in Commerce in 2018, he worked as a supervisor in a Steel Plant in Burnpur, Asansol handholding the daily documentation, wages, policies, and welfare of the labourers. His first hand experience of the plight of unskilled rural labourers inspired him to appear for the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship and bring a change in the lives of those in the lowest rung of the society. He believes in social equity, and through his academic, professional, and societal contributions he wants to make his point, and lead others in raising their voice for justice, and fundamental rights.

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Uttar Dinajpur | West Bengal

SWETASREE MAL

Swetasree grew up in the suburban town of Rishra, right outside of Kolkata. She completed her schooling from a missionary institute, St. Joseph's Convent, high on the tenets of discipline, located in the picturesque erstwhile French colony of Chandannagar. She went onto complete her graduation and postgraduate studies in Political Science and International Relations from Jadavpur University in 2017. She has a combined work experience of four years including two years in political consulting, where she was an integral part of Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC). She worked and monitored a field team unit, formulated winning strategies, and was an active part of political, media, and social media liaising over 65 assembly constituencies. She believes that MGNF will help her gain on-ground experience in the public policy sector, where she's keen on building her career.

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Darjeeling | West Bengal



TANUJA DAS

Tanuja Das is from Kolkata, West Bengal. She completed her B.Tech. in Computer Science from Guru Nanak Institute of Technology. Then she started working with Capgemini. After working there for 2 years she joined Transition Pvt. Ltd. as a teacher for Math and Science. MGNF is giving her a great opportunity of on ground experiences and formulating plans in close association with district administration. Also it really excites her to work with fellows from diverse background from all around the country.

.....
Dakshin Dinajpur | West Bengal



SYED JAASIRAH SYEDAIN

Jaasirah is a Ladakhi brought up in Kashmir. She meandered across disciplines completing her undergrad in History from St. Stephens and Masters in Public Policy from TISS. Her interest and experience lies at the confluence of Research, Gender, Disability and Public Policy. Her research work is on Queer Manzimyour (matchmakers) of Kashmir, Rohingya women, Panchayati Raj in Kashmir. She has worked with an NGO in Kashmir to sensitize about the needs of children with Disability and children in need of care and protection. She believes MGNF is a platform where her inclination towards research and aspirations to gain roots in Development sector can both be worked towards. She is looking forward to this journey to understand how the socio political and administrative structures function on ground and the sustainable solutions for an inclusive and prosperous future.

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Srinagar | Jammu & Kashmir



VALLIVEDU SRIKAR REDDY

Vallivedu Srikar Reddy hails from a village nearby Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. During his graduation in Mechanical Engineering, he participated and coordinated in many NSS activities like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Health Camps, Digital India Workshop and Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp organized by NSTEDB as a volunteer. He also worked as a 'Graduate Apprentice Trainee' in VSSC-ISRO at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala for almost a year. He believes that this fellowship is a natural progression in his life that combines learning with contribution to nation development. In long run, he sees himself working as an active agent of social change.

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Kargil | Ladakh

IIM JAMMU STATE RESOURCE COORDINATORS



ARUN P

Arun, is working with IIM Jammu as State Resource Coordinator for Puducherry under MGNF Phase II. He holds a Master Degree in Local Governance from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development and his Bachelor's degree in Commerce from University of Calicut. He has a work experience of 7 years in the field of Rural Education and Skill Development in different capacities with reputed Government and Non-Governmental organizations which includes NIRDPR, Centre for Research & Education for Social Transformation, PRAGYA and MYRADA.



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**State Resource Coordinator
Puducherry**



DR. AZRA MUFTI

Azra Mufti, has a doctorate degree in business management and have authored two books. She has worked as assistant professor in various educational institutes and has worked as field investigator in major research projects. She has also been a part of various awareness programs and has delivered lectures on various social issues like domestic violence, mental health issues, child abuse and sexual abuse. She has also taken guest lectures in various legal awareness programs in different universities of the state.

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**State Resource Coordinator
Kashmir**

RADHIKA SHARMA

Radhika Sharma holds a Master's degree in Sociology and recently completed B.Ed. As an educator, she has an interest in developmental topics. Since 2017, she has volunteered with imminent organizations such as Childline Jammu, Red Cross Society, DISHA Volunteer Organization, and many more. She has worked with the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) as a Development Officer under Plastic Waste Management Project initiated by the United Nations Development Program. She has worked as a Field Investigator during the Social Audit of the centrally sponsored Mid-day Meal scheme in Jammu and Kashmir. She also has two years of experience as a Coordinator at Perfect Vision Welfare Foundation.

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**State Resource Coordinator
Chandigarh**



RAJAN KUMAR

Rajan Kumar is a State Resource Associate - MGNF at IIM Jammu in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, GoI and other stakeholders. He holds an MPhil. (Management and Labour Studies) and Masters in Labour Studies from TISS Mumbai. Experienced Social Development professional with 2 years 6 months experience in CSR department with education, researcher, and skill development industries i.e. CSR Consultant, Operations Management and Project Management.

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**State Resource Coordinator
Jammu**



RAJ ROSHAN SHAW

Raj Roshan holds a Master's degree in Rural Development, a social development professional with nearly five years of experience, specialized in working among a diverse group of people with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration on Rural Development, Assessment Studies, Monitoring & Evaluation and WASH. Experienced in implementing initiatives in the district and state by Ministry, Educational institutions and Civil society organizations. He has worked in different capacities with the different state governments of India and INGO partners.

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**State Resource Coordinator
West Bengal**



SHAHANA KHAN

Shahana Khan has an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Jamia Millia Islamia. Besides, she done her B.Com from University of Delhi. Currently, she is working as an SRA for Ladakh under Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program. A finance and accounting professional with around 2.5 years of experience in the field of research writing, report making, administration and skill development. She has also worked as a Young Professional in Horticulture Department of J&K.

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**State Resource Coordinator
Ladakh**



Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship
2021-2023

Transforming skilling through strategic partnerships
under SANKALP





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Designed by: Ruchi Kumar
Cover design by : TechScoop Private Limited & Ruchi Kumar

Supported by: Radhika Sharma, Farhana Islam, Manujender Singh Rana, Mrinal Kanti Saha, Mriganka Mondal, Muhammed Rashid, Pranay Kumar, Rajashi Biswas, Raghuram Manoharan, Sahil Sharma, Sanjhali Jain, Swetashree Mal, Shivam Verma, Sneha S Kumar, Vallavedu Srikar Reddy, Siddhant Singh