

Rohtas District, Bihar: A Statistical and Analytical Profile

Demography, Economy, Agriculture, Social Infrastructure, Governance and Development Scheme Coverage
 — An Integrated Assessment

Abstract: This research profile presents a systematic and evidence-based analysis of Rohtas district, part of Patna Division in the state of Bihar, India. Constituted as an independent district in 1972 with Sasaram as its administrative headquarters, Rohtas spans 3,881 sq km and occupies a distinctive position at the intersection of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Chota Nagpur Plateau. Drawing on data from the Census of India (2001 and 2011), NFHS-5 (2019-21), the District Factbook (January 2026 edition), Bihar Economic Survey and Central Government scheme portals, this analysis covers the district's physical geography, demographic structure, economic performance, agricultural productivity, social infrastructure (education and health), industrial profile and welfare scheme coverage. Rohtas presents a paradox of structural advantage — Bihar's highest literacy rate, significant agricultural output and historic industrial legacy — against persistent challenges of rural dominance, post-industrial decline and institutional capacity constraints.

Keywords: Rohtas, Bihar, District Profile, Agriculture, Literacy, GDDP, MGNREGS, Rural Development, Demographic Analysis

1. Identification and Key Indicators

The following snapshot in Figure 1 provides a high-level overview of Rohtas's standing in Bihar, highlighting its unique position in terms of area, literacy and per capita income.

Figure 1: Key Geo-Demographic & Economic Indicators - Rohtas District (Census 2011; 2023-24 GDDP Data)



Figure 2: Schematic Location Map: Rohtas District in Bihar

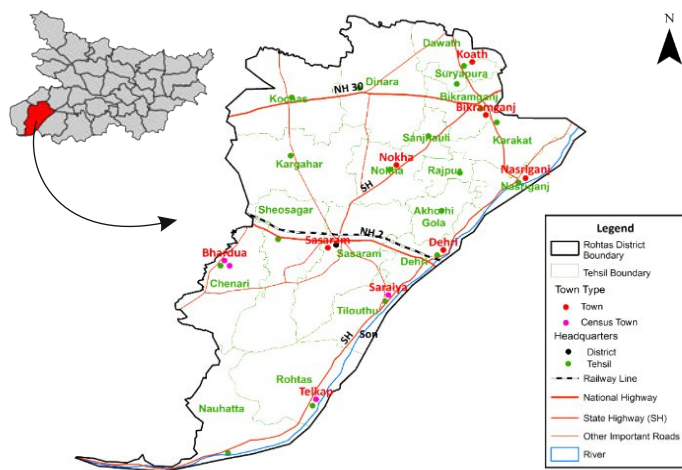
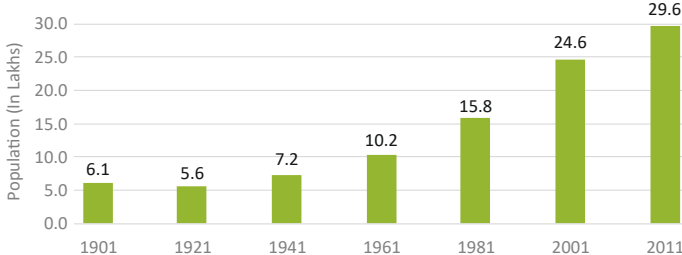


Figure 3: Population Growth Trajectory, 1901-2011



2. Physical Geography and Administration

Rohtas district is situated at 24°63'N latitude and 83°92'E longitude at an elevation of approximately 108 metres above mean sea level. The district encompasses 3,881 sq km (ranked 4th in Bihar and 318th nationally) and is bounded by Buxar and Bhojpur districts to the north, the state of Jharkhand to the south-west, Aurangabad district to the south-east and Kaimur district to the west. Rohtas's strategic location at the intersection of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Chota Nagpur Plateau is illustrated in Figure 2. The Sone River, a major tributary of the Ganges, traverses the northern belt and the district is home to the Rohtasgarh Fort, a medieval fortification of significant historical importance. The Jawahar Setu road bridge (1963-65) across the Sone River, at 3,061 metres, was once Asia's longest road bridge; and Nehru Setu remains India's second-longest railway bridge. Rohtas falls within the "Red Corridor" classified area and was designated among India's 250 most backward districts in 2006, making it eligible for Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) transfers.

Administratively, the district comprises 3 sub-divisions (Sasaram, Bikramganj, Dehri), 19 sub-districts, 19 Community Development Blocks, 10 towns and 2,072 villages. It encompasses 3 Lok Sabha constituencies and 7 Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The administrative language is Hindi, which is also the mother tongue of 95.28% of the population. Forest

cover stands at 17.35% of the geographical area (2023 data) and recorded rainfall was 703.4 mm in 2024-25.

3. Demographic Profile

As per the Census of India 2011, Rohtas records a population of 29,59,918 persons (15,43,546 males and 14,16,372 females), distributed across 4,55,878 households. The population density is 763 persons per sq km, below Bihar's 1,106 but well above the national average of 368. Population growth during 2001-2011 was 20.78% — 20.26% for males and 21.34% for females. The district's long-term demographic evolution is shown in Figure 3, from 1901 to 2011. The projected population for 2026 stands at 36,09,590 (17th rank in state; 128th in India). Rural population constitutes 85.55% of the total, underscoring the overwhelmingly rural character of the district. Urban population (14.45%) is concentrated in Sasaram, Dehri, Bikramganj and Nokha towns. Figure 5 presents the district's underlying religious demographic composition.

The Census 2011 sex ratio of 918 females per 1,000 males is at parity with the Bihar state average (918) but below the national figure of 943 — a persistent structural deficit. Notably, the NFHS-5 (2019-21) estimated sex ratio has improved substantially to 1,040, indicating significant improvement in the demographic gender balance over the decade. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) stood at 931 in 2011 (rural: 933; urban: 914). Children (0-6 years) numbered 5,06,810, constituting 17.12% of the total population. Scheduled Castes account for 18.57% of the population (5,49,546 persons), with Chamar/Ravidas (38.4%) and Dusadh (34.2%) being the dominant SC communities; Scheduled Tribes form 1.07% (31,650 persons), with Oraon/Dhangar (34.9%) & Kharwar (21.9%) predominating.

Figure 4: Literacy Rate Comparison (%) - Rohtas, Bihar and India

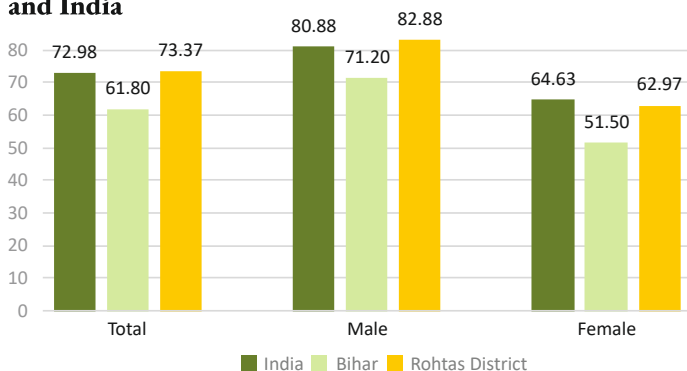
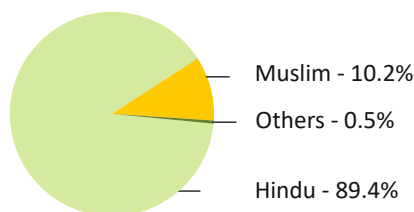


Figure 5: Religious Composition 2011



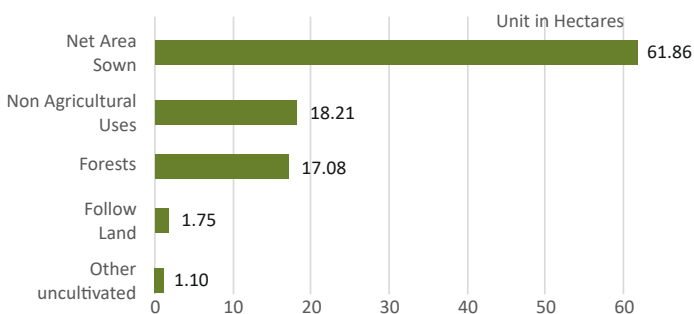
4. Education

Rohtas holds the distinction of being ranked 1st in Bihar for overall literacy (Census 2011), with 73.37% — exceeding both Bihar's 61.80% and the national average of 72.98%. Male literacy stands at 82.88% and female literacy at 62.97%, reflecting a gender gap of 19.91 percentage points. Rohtas leads the state in education, as illustrated in Figure 4, which highlights the persistent gender gap in literacy. Updated estimates from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS, July 2023-June 2024) place overall literacy at 78.36% (rural 75.47%; urban 87.23%), indicating consistent improvement. As of 2021-22, the district had 18,214 teachers across all school stages. The total number of schools across stages was 2,835 institutional units, with 1,351 primary-only schools and 1,078 combined primary-upper primary institutions. Higher education penetration remains limited, compelling students to migrate to Patna and other centres for tertiary education.

5. Agriculture and Land Utilisation

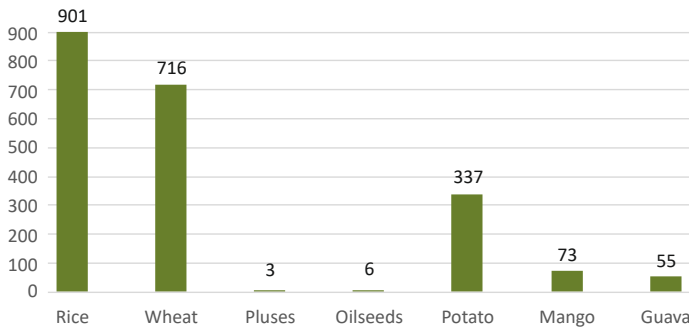
Agriculture constitutes the primary occupation and major source of income for the population of Rohtas. The total reporting area for land utilisation stands at 3,90,722 hectares (2023-24), of which 2,41,695 hectares (61.86%) are under net cultivation — ranking 3rd in Bihar. The total cropped area of 4,08,957 hectares, against net sown area of 2,41,695 hectares, yields a cropping intensity of 169.2% — the highest in Bihar — with area sown more than once at 1,67,262 hectares (ranked 1st in state). Forest cover accounts for 66,723 hectares (17.08%).

Figure 6: Land Utilisation Pattern 2023-24



Rohtas ranks 1st in Bihar for both total cereals and foodgrain production (2023-24). Rice production stands at 9,00,582 tonnes (193,718 ha; yield 4.65 t/ha - 1st in state) and wheat at 7,16,191 tonnes (205,036 ha; yield 3.49 t/ha - 1st in Bihar for area and production). Horticulture is significant: Rohtas ranks 1st in Bihar for guava production (54,600 tonnes from 3,640 ha) and is a major producer of potato (3,36,900 tonnes), mango (73,280 tonnes) and vegetables. Rapeseed and mustard production totals 6,295 tonnes (ranked 5th in state). Sone canal network provides substantial irrigated area (government canals: 2,99,424 ha gross irrigated), making Rohtas one of Bihar's better-irrigated districts. The district's high cropping intensity is supported by its land-use patterns (Fig. 6) and its dominant outputs of rice and wheat (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Major Crop Production 2023-24 (in '000 Tonnes)



6. Economy and Industrial Profile

The Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) of Rohtas for 2023-24 stands at Rs. 25,29,874 lakh at current prices and Rs. 13,90,950 lakh at constant (2011-12) prices — ranking 9th in Bihar. The Net District Domestic Product (NDDP) was Rs. 22,80,833 lakh (current) and Rs. 12,24,235 lakh (constant prices). Per Capita Income (NDDP, at factor cost) in 2023-24 was Rs. 65,874 at current prices and Rs. 35,358 at constant prices, ranking 5th in Bihar and marginally exceeding the state average of Rs. 62,201 — a positive differentiator. Sectoral GDP data (2019-20) reveal that services contribute 44.0% of GDDP (Rs. 7,51,947 lakh), followed by agriculture at 28.8% (Rs. 4,91,973 lakh) and industry at 27.3% (Rs. 4,66,976 lakh), reflecting a relatively balanced structural composition compared to Bihar’s predominantly agrarian districts.

The industrial heritage of Rohtas is noteworthy. Dalmianagar, once a major industrial nucleus hosting sugar, vegetable oil, cement, paper and chemical factories, has seen near-complete industrial closure since the 1980s — a consequence of civil unrest, extortion networks and mafia interference in trade. Coal deposits at Dehri-on-Sone contribute marginally to the economy. MSME registrations total 31,984 Udyam units (as of October 2024), predominantly micro enterprises (31,263 units), indicating limited formal medium and large industrial activity. Outstanding bank credit in the industrial sector totals Rs. 52,50,594 lakh. Credit-Deposit ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks stands at 45.55%, below both state and national averages, indicating underutilisation of local financial resources. Lead bank is Punjab National Bank (Sasaram). The structural shift toward services and the current state of micro-enterprise registrations are visualized in Figures 8 and 9, respectively.

Key infrastructure projects in various stages of planning and execution include: Gas-Based Power Project at Dehri-on-Sone (Rs. 1,620 crore, Sravanthi Infratech); Indrapuri Reservoir Hydrel Power Project (Rs. 1,200 crore, BSHEPCO); Varanasi-Kolkata Highway Package-2 (Rs. 945 crore); and Road Upgradation Badaldih-Khaira (Rs. 523 crore, BSRDCL). Road infrastructure includes 246 km. National Highway, 193 km State Highway, 549 km major district roads and 3,455 km rural roads (upto September, 2024).

Figure 8: Sectoral GDDP Contribution 2019-20 (At Current Prices)

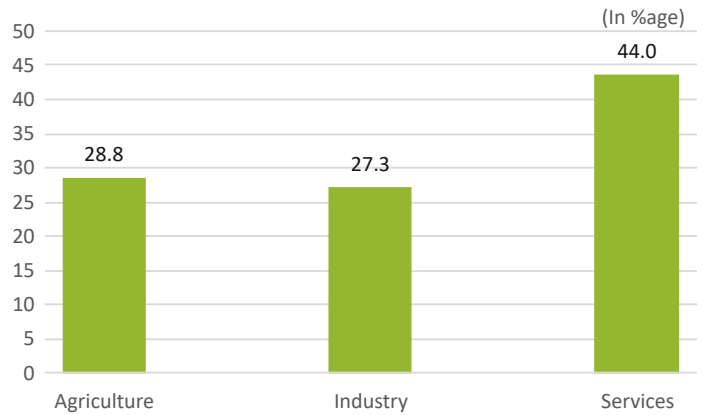
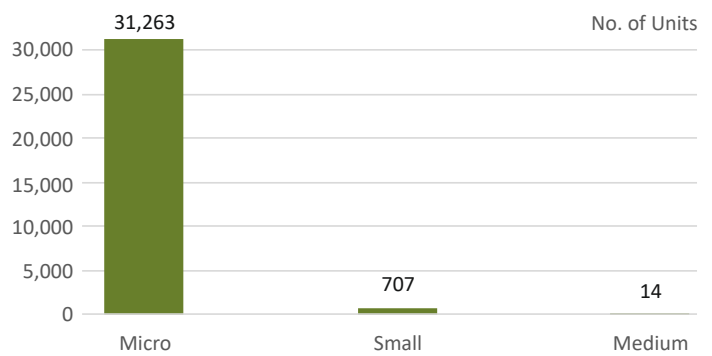


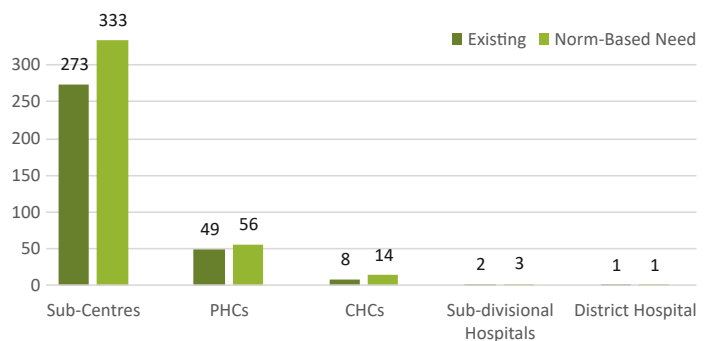
Figure 9: MSME Units Registered Under Udyam (As on October 2024)



7. Health Infrastructure

Rohtas had 273 sub-centres, 49 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 8 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 2 sub-divisional hospitals and 1 district hospital as of 31 March 2023, ranking 13th (PHCs) and 9th (CHCs) in Bihar. The NFHS-5 data (2019-21) shows improvements in maternal and child health indicators. Prevalence of Enteric Fever (257 cases, 2023-24) and Dog Bite (1,618 cases) are notable disease burden indicators. No medical college is located within the district limits. Despite recent improvements, Figure 10 shows that the district’s health infrastructure still has gaps relative to normative requirements.

Figure 10: Health Infrastructure - Rohtas District vs Normative Requirements (March 2023)



8. Social and Welfare Scheme Coverage

Rohtas demonstrates commendable coverage across flagship Central Government schemes, though implementation gaps remain at the sub-district level. The district's performance in flagship programs like Jal Jeevan Mission and MGNREGS is visually summarized in Figure 11, with detailed metrics and state rankings provided in Table 1.

Figure 11: Welfare Scheme Coverage Indicators - Key Programmes (2024-25)



Table 1: Major Central/State Welfare Scheme Performance — Rohtas District (2024-25)

Scheme	Key Metric	Rohtas	Bihar Avg.	State Rank	Observation
MGNREGS (2024-25)	Persondays Generated	57.26 Lakh	—	20th	1.15L HH covered; 677 families completed 100 days
PMAY-G (2024-25)	Houses Completed	68,119	—	25th	78,330 sanctioned; 87% completion rate
Jal Jeevan Mission (As on 08.04.2025)	FHTC Coverage (%)	97.62%	95.71%	16th	4,22,582 HH with tap connections; 1,526 villages 100% covered (As on 01.04.2024)
SBM (Gramin) IHHL Coverage (2021-2022)	Latrine Coverage	100%	100%	1st	Achieved ODF status; 2,51,488 HH covered
NRLM (SHGs) (2024-25)	Total SHGs	15,181	—	19th	Rs.24,355L disbursed; 79.4% NRLM compliant (4th in state)
NSAP (2021-22)	Universe Beneficiaries	1,48,383	—	15th	Social pension coverage; Aadhaar seeding 92,929
PMGSY (2024-25) Completed	Road Length	20.52 km	—	25th	—

9. Statistical Summary Table

For a final consolidated view of all key developmental indicators, including agricultural, demographic and economic rankings, refer to Table 2.

Table 2: Comprehensive Statistical Summary - Rohtas District

Indicator	Value	Year	Rank (State)
Geographical Area	3,881 sq km	2011	4th
Population	29,59,918	2011	17th
Projected Population	36,09,590	2026	17th
Population Density	763/sq km	2011	32nd
Sex Ratio	918 (NFHS-5: 1040)	2011/2019-21	15th/18th
Child Sex Ratio (0-6)	931	2011	17th
Literacy Rate	73.37% (Male: 82.88, Female: 62.97)	2011	1st
GDDP (Current Prices)	Rs. 25,29,874 Lakh	2023-24	9th
Per Capita Income (NDDP)	Rs. 65,874	2023-24	5th
Net Area Sown	2,41,695 ha (61.86%)	2023-24	3rd
Cropping Intensity	169.2% (area sown >1: 1st)	2023-24	1st

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Indicator	Value	Year	Rank (State)
Rice Production	9,00,582 tonnes	2023-24	1st
Wheat Production	7,16,191 tonnes	2023-24	1st (area)
SC Population (%)	18.57% (5,49,546)	2011	13th
ST Population (%)	1.07% (31,650)	2011	13th
MSME Units (Udyam)	31,984	Oct 2024	18th
C-D Ratio (SCBs)	45.55%	As on September, 2025	21st
JJM Tap Coverage	97.62%	(As on 08.04.2025)	16th
IHHL SBM Coverage	100% (ODF)	2021-22	1st

Sources: District Factbook Jan 2026; Census 2011; NFHS-5

10. Analytical Findings and Conclusions

- Demographic Transition in Progress:** The improvement in sex ratio from 918 (Census 2011) to 1,040 (NFHS-5, 2019-21) signals a substantive gender demographic shift; however, the child sex ratio at 867 (NFHS-5) indicates persisting son-preference pressures requiring targeted intervention.
- Structural Agricultural Primacy with Productivity Gains:** Rohtas achieves India-level benchmarks in rice yield (4.65 t/ha) and maintains the highest cropping intensity in Bihar, reflecting effective utilisation of Sone canal irrigation. However, agricultural risk remains high given the 85.55% rural population dependence.
- Post-Industrial Void:** The collapse of the Dalmianagar industrial complex represents a significant structural loss. The district's MSME footprint (31,984 units, predominantly micro) and low C-D ratio (45.55%) indicate underutilised economic potential and incomplete industrial recovery.
- Literacy Leadership with Equity Deficit:** The 1st rank in Bihar literacy (73.37%) is Rohtas's most significant socio-economic differentiator. The 19.9 percentage-point gender gap (82.88% male vs 62.97% female) and limited higher education infrastructure remain structural constraints.
- Scheme Performance: Mixed Outcomes:** Outstanding JJM tap water coverage (97.62%; 16th in state) and 100% IHHL coverage under SBM-G stand as implementation successes. MGNREGS performance (ranked 20th in state) and PMAY completion rate suggest mid-tier implementation capacity.
- Infrastructure Potential:** Proposed infrastructure investments exceeding Rs. 4,300 crore across power (gas, hydel) and road connectivity projects, if executed, carry the potential to re-ignite economic activity in the Dehri-Sasaram industrial corridor and catalyse employment generation.

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— *IndiastatDistricts.com Research Desk*



The expansion of freedom is viewed, in this approach, both as the primary end and as the principal means of development. Development consists of the removal of various types of unfreedoms that leave people with little choice and little opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency. The removal of substantial unfreedoms, it is argued here, is constitutive of development. The interconnections between political freedoms, economic facilities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees and protective security are central to this understanding.

— **Amartya Sen**

Development as Freedom (1999)
Nobel Laureate in Economics (1998)

