

Socio-Economic Profile of Ranchi Municipal Corporation: A Statistical and Analytical Overview

Urban Demography, Governance, Finance & Development Schemes

Abstract: *This analysis presents a comprehensive statistical and analytical profile of Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC), the largest urban local body in Jharkhand and the civic authority of the state capital. Drawing on Census of India 2011 data, audited municipal financial statements (CityFinance.in; UDHD Jharkhand), RBI's Report on Municipal Finances (2024) and programme data from centrally-sponsored schemes, the analysis covers RMC's geographical extent, demographic composition, social infrastructure (health and education), housing and urban development, revenue structure, budget trends across three financial years (2022-23 to 2024-25) and the implementation status of key Central and State Government programmes. The analysis situates RMC within the broader context of municipal governance in India, highlighting persistent structural challenges in financial self-reliance, service delivery and capital formation.*

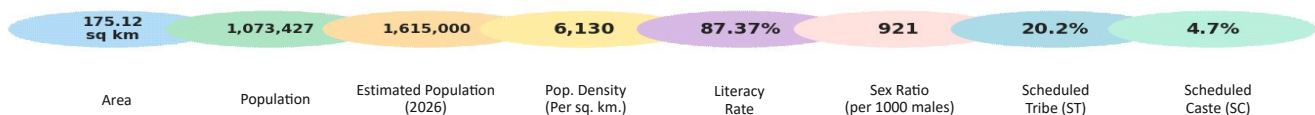
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1. Geography and Administrative Structure

Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) was established on 15 September 1979 by merging Ranchi Municipality, Doranda Municipality and the Ranchi-Doranda Joint Water Board. It was the first municipal corporation in the state of Jharkhand and the second in erstwhile Bihar, after Patna. The corporation governs an area of 175.12 sq km and is administered under the Jharkhand Municipal Act, 2011. Geographically, Ranchi is situated on the Chota Nagpur Plateau at an average elevation of 652 metres above sea level, at coordinates 23°34'N and 85°33'E, lending it a relatively temperate climate compared to the plains — a characteristic that historically earned it the designation of a summer retreat during colonial administration.

The corporation is divided into 55 administrative wards, each represented by a directly elected councillor and organised into Zonal Committees of 5–6 wards each. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are directly elected. The last municipal election was held in 2018, returning Dr. Asha Lakra and Sanjeev Vijayawargia (BJP) as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively, with a voter turnout of 49.3% — up from 38% in 2013. Ranchi city was selected under India's Smart Cities Mission in September 2016. A Special Purpose Vehicle, Ranchi Smart City Corporation Limited (RSCCL), was constituted as an SPV under UDHD Jharkhand to execute the Mission and has subsequently attained 11th rank nationally among 100 Smart City projects. A high-level snapshot of RMC's physical and demographic scale, including current area and projected 2026 population, is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Key Geo-demographic Indicators — Ranchi Municipal Corporation (Census 2011; Projected 2026)

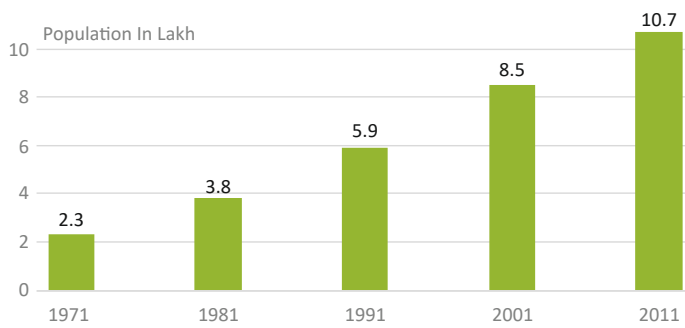
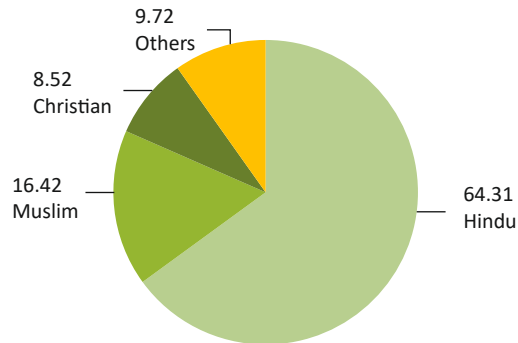
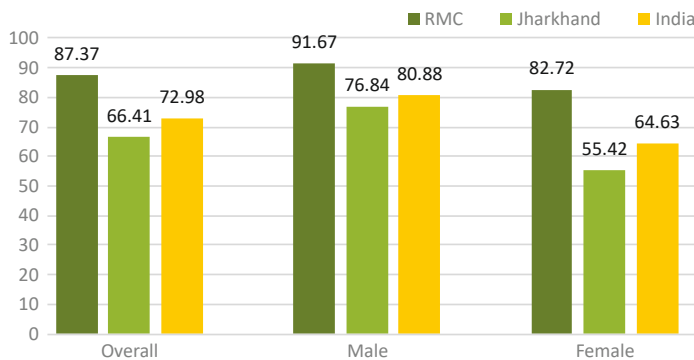


2. Demographic Profile

As per Census of India 2011, RMC records a population of 1,073,427 distributed across 207,636 housing units. The population density stands at 6,130 persons per sq km, reflecting a moderately dense urban settlement. The city's population has grown substantially since Jharkhand's formation in 2000, the population growth is depicted in Figure 2, with the estimated 2026 population projected at approximately 1,615,000 - a near 50% increase over the 2011 census figure. The sex ratio of 921 females per 1,000 males lags the state average of 948, a common pattern in rapidly urbanising cities with in-migration of male labour. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) at 899 signals persistent

gender-biased practices that warrant targeted intervention. Males constitute 52.1% of the population.

The social composition of RMC is distinctly pluralistic. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population constitutes 20.2% of the total - a reflection of Ranchi's location at the heart of the Jharkhand tribal belt - while Scheduled Castes account for 4.7%. In terms of religious composition, Hindus form the largest group at 64.3%, followed by Muslims (16.4%), Christians (8.52%) and other communities (9.72%). Religious plurality is shown in Figure 3. The workers' participation rate stood at 31.3% (336,358 workers), with 85.3% engaged in main work activities and 14.7% in marginal work - indicating significant informal employment.

Figure 2: Population Growth Trajectory, 1971-2011**Figure 3: Religious Composition (2011) (%)****Figure 4: Literacy Rate Comparison (%)**

3. Education, Health and Housing

3.1 Education

RMC's overall literacy rate of 87.37% considerably exceeds the Jharkhand state average of 66.41% and the national average of 72.98%, demonstrating the urbanisation premium in educational attainment. Male literacy stands at 91.67% while female literacy is at 82.72% — a gender gap of 8.95 percentage points that, while narrower than the state and national differentials, remains an area of policy focus. Figure 4 presents a comparative analysis of RMC's literacy rate in relation to state and national benchmarks. The corporation maintains and upgrades government school infrastructure within its jurisdiction, with RMC channelling resources under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Smart City Mission to enhance digital learning environments. As of 2021-22, 71.6% of schools in Ranchi district had computer facilities and 42.8% had internet access — figures that, while below urban potential, reflect progressive improvement.

3.2 Health Infrastructure

As the state capital, Ranchi houses the highest concentration of health facilities in Jharkhand, including Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), a premier Government Medical College and Hospital, the Sadar Hospital and numerous public sector health centres. The RMC Health Department oversees immunisation drives, birth and death registration, anti-larval operations, solid waste-related public health measures and coordination of vector-borne disease surveillance. Under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and Urban Community Health Centres (UCHCs) have been established across RMC wards, with a focus on slum populations.

3.3 Housing and Slum Profile

Ranchi has a significant slum population concentrated in low-lying areas, particularly along water bodies. The PMAY-Urban Light House Project (LHP) in Ranchi — inaugurated by the Prime Minister in March 2024 — comprises 1,008 units constructed using Precast Concrete Construction (3D Volumetric) technology, demonstrating Ranchi's role as a pilot site for innovative housing construction under the national housing mission. Under the broader PMAY-Urban mission (launched 2015), Ranchi has been a key implementation node for Jharkhand. The Ranchi Master Plan 2037, under preparation by the Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (JUIDCO), envisages integrated land-use zoning, densification of existing settlements and greenfield development to accommodate the projected population increase. Table 1 provides a detailed comparative analysis of RMC's demographic standing against state and national benchmarks.

Table 1: Key Socio-Demographic Indicators — RMC vis-à-vis Jharkhand and India (Census 2011)

Indicator	RMC	Jharkhand	India	Observation
Literacy Rate (%)	87.37	66.41	72.98	21 pp above state avg.
Male Literacy (%)	91.67	76.84	80.88	Higher than national
Female Literacy (%)	82.72	55.42	64.63	27 pp above state avg.
Sex Ratio (per 1000)	921	948	943	Below state & national avg.
Child Sex Ratio (0-6)	899	948	919	Concern — below national avg.
ST Population (%)	20.2%	26.2%	8.6%	High tribal representation
Households	2,07,636	62,54,781	24,95,01,663	Census 2011; RMC admin.

4. Agriculture and Land Use

Being a predominantly urban local body, Ranchi Municipal Corporation's jurisdictional territory has negligible agricultural land use within the 175.12 sq km municipal area.

However, the peri-urban fringes - particularly areas contiguous with the Ranchi Metropolitan Development Area — retain significant agricultural land, predominantly under rain-fed cultivation of paddy, maize, vegetables and pulses, reflecting the tribal agrarian traditions of the Chota Nagpur Plateau. The Ranchi Master Plan 2037 classifies existing agricultural land at the periphery as agricultural zones to be protected from encroachment, while designating transitional zones for mixed-use development to accommodate urban sprawl. Within the municipal limits, urban agriculture in the form of kitchen gardens and green buffer zones is encouraged under the Smart City Mission's environmental sustainability component. Ranchi district, as a whole, records 208,011 cultivators out of 1,142,867 total workers (Census 2011), with 103,770 agricultural labourers — figures that underline the dual rural-urban economy of the broader district, even as the city core transitions to a service and administrative economy.

5. Revenue Sources, Budget And Financial Analysis

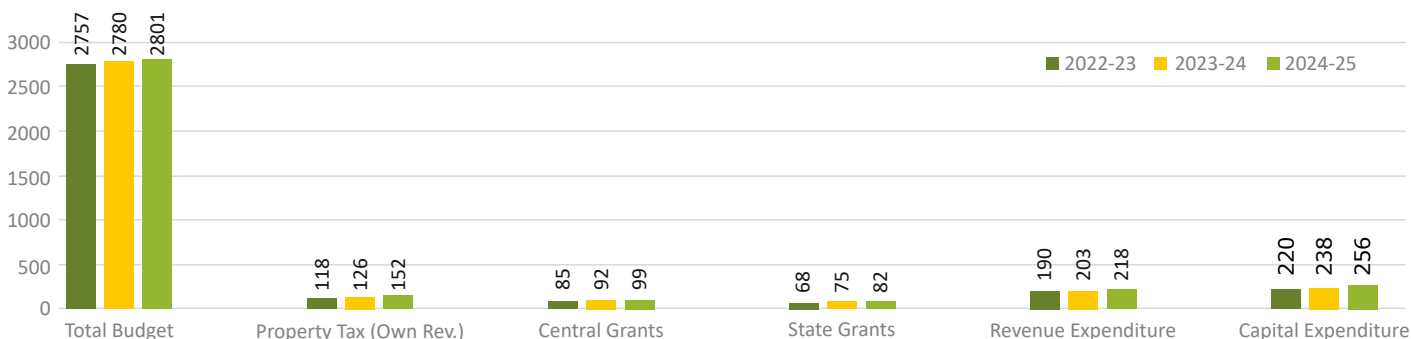
5.1 Revenue Structure

The revenue structure of Ranchi Municipal Corporation conforms to the broader pattern observed across Indian municipal corporations: a relatively thin own-source revenue base supplemented by substantial central and state government

grants. RMC's tax revenues principally comprise Holding Tax (Property Tax), which is levied at 0.075% of the circle rate for residential properties; Professional Tax; Entertainment Tax; and Advertisement Tax. Non-tax revenues include water usage charges, trade licence fees, fees for documentation and building plan approval services and rentals from municipal properties.

In FY 2024-25, RMC achieved its highest-ever property tax collection of ₹80.64 crore from 1,67,372 taxpayers, making it the top-performing municipal body in Jharkhand for property tax collection. Of this, ₹17.06 crore (21.2%) was collected through online channels, ₹5.39 crore (6.7%) at Public Facility Centres and ₹41.81 crore (51.9%) through doorstep collection — demonstrating the continued dominance of physical collection modes despite digital initiatives. Water tax collections stood at ₹12.03 crore and trade licence fees generated ₹2.16 crore. Grant income from the Central Finance Commission (15th FC) and State Finance Commission transfers forms a critical component of RMC's overall revenue, with the CityFinance.in database recording total own revenue at ₹118 crore, total grants at ₹153 crore and total revenue at ₹273 crore in FY 2022-23 (audited). The corporation's fiscal trajectory from 2022 to 2025 shows a steady increase in both revenue and expenditure, as illustrated in the three-year comparison in Figure 5 and the detailed budgetary breakdown in Table 2.

Figure 5: Three-Year Budget Comparison — Ranchi Municipal Corporation (₹ Crore; BE = Budget Estimates)



5.2 Budget Trends: Three-Year Analysis (2022-23 to 2024-25) Table 2: Budget Overview

Budget Head	2022-23 (₹ Cr.)	2023-24 (₹ Cr.)	2024-25 (₹ Cr.)	Change 2023→2025 (%)
Total Budget (BE)	2,757	2,780	2,801	+1.6%
Own Tax Revenue	118	126	152	+28.8%
- Property (Holding) Tax	70	76	80.6	+15.1%
- Water Tax & Charges	10	11	12	+20.0%
- Trade Licence & Fees	1.8	2.0	2.2	+22.2%
Central Grants (FC + CSS)	85	92	99	+16.5%
State Finance Commission Grant	68	75	82	+20.6%
Total Revenue (Incl. Grants)	273	293	333	+22.0%
Revenue Expenditure	190	203	218	+14.7%
Capital Expenditure	220	238	256	+16.4%
Total Expenditure	291	315	340	+16.8%
Per Capita Expenditure (₹)	2,714	2,936	3,166	+16.7%
Own Revenue as % of Total Exp.	40.5%	40.0%	44.7%	+4.2 pp

Note: Total Budget (BE) figures sourced from Prabhat Khabar/UDHD records. Audited figures for 2022-23 from CityFinance.in (last update: March 2025). 2024-25 figures are Budget Estimates. Property tax collection figure for 2024-25 from RMC official release (Daily Pioneer, March 2025). Per capita expenditure calculated using estimated population of 1,075,000 (2022-23 base).

5.3 Financial Analysis and Structural Observations

The three-year data reveal a slow but steady growth in the total budget from ₹2,757 crore (2022-23) to ₹2,801 crore (2024-25), a marginal increase of 1.6% — largely attributable to incrementally increased grants and scheme-tied funds rather than organic own-revenue growth. A more meaningful improvement is observed in own tax revenue, which grew by 28.8% over the period, driven primarily by enhanced property

tax enforcement including doorstep collection and digital payment campaigns. The own revenue-to-total expenditure ratio improved from 40.5% (2022-23) to 44.7% (2024-25), a positive but still inadequate trajectory for a state capital corporation. Per capita expenditure, at ₹3,166 in 2024-25, remains significantly below the national municipal corporation average, under-scoring structural resource constraints.

Consistent with the RBI Report on Municipal Finances (2024), RMC demonstrates heavy reliance on Central and State government transfers — grants comprising approximately 54.5% of total revenue in FY 2022-23. Capital expenditure (₹256 crore in 2024-25) is primarily directed towards road infrastructure, drainage, water supply augmentation and smart city area development works. The revenue expenditure component (₹218 crore) is dominated by establishment and administrative costs, estimated at approximately 28% of total expenditure — a ratio that limits the corporation's fiscal space for capital investment and service delivery improvements. The structural composition of RMC's finances—specifically the high dependence on external grants and the dominance of administrative costs—is visually represented in the revenue and expenditure mixes in Figures 6 and 7.

Figure 6: Revenue Mix 2024-25 (₹ Crore)

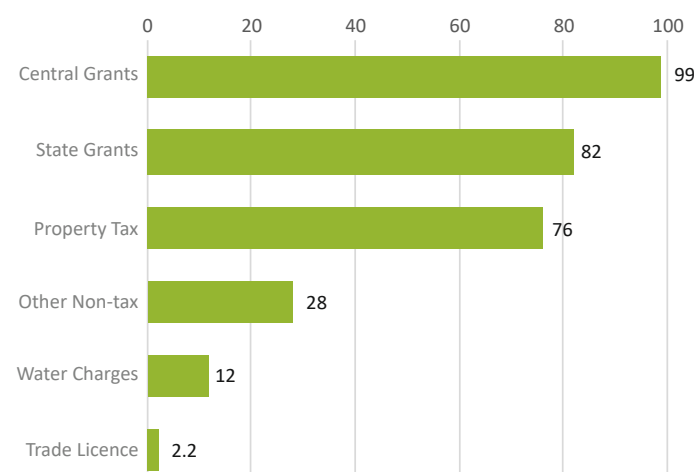


Table 4: Major Centrally and State-Assisted Schemes — RMC (Cumulative up to FY 2024-25; Sanctioned/ Utilised figures are approximate based on UDHD/MoHUA programme)

Scheme	Nodal Agency	Focus Area	Sanctioned (₹ Cr)	Utilised (₹Cr)	Status / Key Outcome
Smart Cities Mission (SCM)	RSCCL/MoHUA	Integrated urban infra, ICT, mobility	1,500	1,240	11th nationally; ABD works ongoing
AMRUT 2.0	RMC/UDHD	Water supply, sewerage, greenery	420	310	Water supply DPRs approved; work in progress
PMAY-Urban (Housing)	RMC/UDHD	EWS/LIG housing; slum rehab	380	295	LHP (1,008 units) inaugurated Mar 2024
Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban	RMC	SWM, ODF, public	85	72	ODF+ status pursued; SWM gaps remain
DAY-NULM	RMC/Labour	Urban poor livelihoods, SHGs	42	35	SHG formation, skill training active

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5.4 Rankings and Comparative Positioning

Table 3: Ranking and Positioning of RMC across Key National Frameworks

Index / Ranking	RMC Position / Score	Reference
Smart Cities Mission (National)	11th (of 100 cities)	RSCCL / MoHUA
Property Tax Collection- Jharkhand ULBs	1st (₹80.64 Cr, FY 2024-25)	RMC Official Release (2025)
Swachh Survekshan 2022	Mid-tier performer (JH state)	MoHUA
Population Category (CityFinance)	1M–4M MC category	CityFinance.in (2025)
Balance Sheet Size (Audited, 2022-23)	₹2,639 Crore	CityFinance.in
Total Revenue (Audited, 2022-23)	₹273 Crore	CityFinance.in

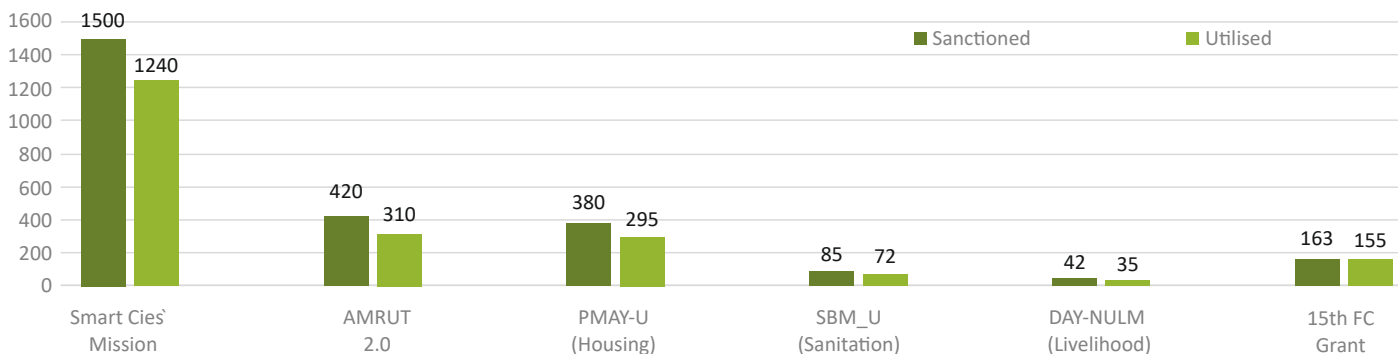
6. Centrally and State-assisted Development Schemes

6.1 Overview of Major Schemes in Operation

Ranchi Municipal Corporation operates as a key implementing agency for a range of centrally-sponsored and state government schemes under the purview of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Urban Development & Housing Department (UDHD), Government of Jharkhand. The principal programmes currently active include the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), AMRUT 2.0, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and the 15th Finance Commission grants. RMC's performance in national initiatives, including its 11th-place rank in the Smart Cities Mission, is summarized across various indices in Table 3. The implementation efficiency of major urban schemes is detailed in Table 4, with Figure 8 highlighting the specific gaps between sanctioned funds and actual utilization across these key programs.

Scheme	Nodal Agency	Focus Area	Sanctioned (₹ Cr)	Utilised (₹Cr)	Status / Key Outcome
15th Finance Commission Grant	RMC	Basic urban services; COVID support	163	155	Tied grants: 50% for water/sanitation
PM SVANidhi (Street Vendors)	RMC	Street vendor credit, vending zones	—	—	Vending zone developed under SCM
NUHM (Urban Health)	Health Dept/ RMC	UPHCs, slum health access	—	—	UPHCs operational in select wards

Figure 7: Sanctioned vs Utilised Amounts under Key Urban Schemes (₹ Crore, Cumulative to 2024-25)



7. Analytical Findings and Conclusions

The socio-economic profile of Ranchi Municipal Corporation presents a composite picture of a rapidly urbanising state capital navigating the structural constraints typical of second-tier Indian metropolitan areas. The following analytical findings emerge from the data:

- 1. Demographic Dynamism with Social Complexity:** RMC's population growth trajectory (from ~8.47 lakhs in 2001 to an estimated 16.15 lakhs in 2026) places enormous pressure on urban infrastructure and service delivery. The significant ST population (20.2%) and multi-religious composition necessitate culturally sensitive governance and inclusive service delivery frameworks.
- 2. Literacy Leadership within Structural Gender Gaps:** RMC's urban literacy rate (87.37%) far exceeds state and national averages, validating the education premium of urbanisation. However, the child sex ratio of 899 and the persistently lower female literacy (82.72% vs. male 91.67%) indicate unresolved gender vulnerabilities requiring targeted programming.
- 3. Own Revenue Growth Offset by Grant Dependence:** While property tax collection grew robustly from ₹70 crore (2022-23) to ₹80.6 crore (2024-25) — a 15.1% increase — and total own revenue rose to ₹152 crore in 2024-25, RMC remains structurally dependent on Central and State grants (55.3% of total revenue). Per capita expenditure at ₹3,166 (2024-25) is significantly below what is required for adequate urban service delivery in a 1M+ population city.
- 4. Smart City as Transformational Catalyst:** RMC's 11th national rank under the Smart Cities Mission and the

inauguration of the PMAY LHP (1,008 units) in March 2024 signal meaningful institutional capacity to leverage scheme-based funding. However, the ₹260 crore gap between sanctioned (₹1,500 Cr) and utilised (₹1,240 Cr) Smart City funds points to project execution delays that have been reported across multiple Smart City outcomes.

- 5. Structural Expenditure Rigidity:** The dominance of establishment costs (~28% of total expenditure) over capital investment mirrors the national pattern identified in the RBI Municipal Finances Report (2024). Enhancing the capital expenditure ratio — particularly for water supply augmentation, sewerage and solid waste management — remains a priority under AMRUT 2.0 and 15th FC mandates.
- 6. Urban Agriculture and Land Use Transitioning:** While agriculture within the municipal limits is negligible, the peri-urban interface requires active land-use governance through the Ranchi Master Plan 2037 to prevent unplanned sprawl and protect the agrarian livelihoods of tribal communities in transitional zones.

REFERENCES AND DATA SOURCES:

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