

KASHMIRI IN KASHMIR INDIA



Main Language:
Kashmiri

Population:
7,236,000

Largest Religion:
Islam
100%

Christian:
0.00%

PrayGlobal

This is the second of a three-part series on specific least reached people groups in the Kashmir region of northern India and Pakistan (famous for cashmere wool). This region is a highly disputed, multi-religious territory (more general information [here](#)).

We will focus on the Gujjar, Kashmiri and Muslim Rajput of the Kashmir region. Two of these least-reached people groups have **no known believers**. Some similarities exist so we challenge prayer teams to build on your knowledge of this part of the world over these three months to grow in understanding how God is, and wants to be, working among these least reached and most vulnerable in a marginalized part of India, and our world as a whole.

PAOC has partners working to reach the Kashmiri in Kashmir India, a least-reached people group (UPG) identified by **Joshua Project**. For general information on this UPG, go [here](#) (and view the video depicting their lives) The information and prayer points below come directly from our partners.

1. What their lives are like

Kashmiri live primarily in rural remote communities amongst the Himalayan mountains, but several Metropolitan centers exist. A very small segment live permanently in house boats on a lake and work as fishermen. Most Kashmiri are farmers, although many are craftsmen. One of the most important exports and the primary agricultural product is cashmere wool, named for the region. Their lives are also heavily impacted by the conflict in the region. It is the most militarized region in the world with one soldier for every six people.

- PRAY for open minds and hearts of people to hear the Gospel amid the harshness of daily life.
- PRAY for the Kashmiri people scattered in remote communities in the Himalayan mountains and the few on houseboats in the lakes to provide the basic needs of their families for shelter, food and education. Give them this day their daily bread.
- PRAY for protection from the violence inflicted from the decades long regional conflict.

2. A following Jesus story

Z was the son of a prominent Sufi cleric in the Kashmir region. He grew up only knowing of Christian beliefs from other Muslims. When he was a teenager, he began to see Jesus in many dreams and visions. In 2008, he travelled across the divide to the predominantly Hindu portion of Kashmir to be baptized. He then became involved in ministry among Hindu Kashmir (a cross-cultural work) focusing on children and the most vulnerable. Z later felt called to reach Muslims with the Gospel and relocated to Delhi, a more open context. However, in the last year he has felt the call of God to return to Kashmir and is partnering with us to deploy in the region by the end of 2024.

- PRAY that others among the 7 million Kashmiri will come to follow Jesus so that the 0.00% will increase so the Kashmiri will have their own missionaries, pastors and teachers.
- PRAY for God's favour upon Z and for a 'person of peace' who will help to open the door to connecting with the Kashmiri (Luke 10:6).

- PRAY for God to continue to empower Z with His Spirit and a strong intercessory team as he ventures in.

3. The most critical need

One of the most critical needs is opportunities for independent financial advancement. Many of the current products and exports from the region are only profitable because of government subsidies. Creating profitable products and creating a market for those products would restore economic freedom and control to the local people, allowing them to live without the fear of losing their subsidies.

- PRAY for God to open opportunities for independent financial advancement.
- PRAY for peace between India and Pakistan so Kashmiri can develop profitable businesses and products can get to markets.
- PRAY for a turning to Jesus amid the struggle for financial advancement, that the focus would shift from survival to thriving in God's blessings.

4. Pray for labourers

Local tourism is an excellent avenue for empowering the local people. One of the most profitable natural resources of the region is its natural beauty. This can open opportunities for short-term teams on tourist visas and provide a market for local, traditional craftsmen to sell to tourists. Secondly, new and innovative agricultural technologies and methods have the potential to greatly improve the lives of Kashmiri people and decrease their dependence on the federal government.

- PRAY for short-term tourist-focused teams to share Jesus as they visit these beautiful people of the Himalayan foothills.
- PRAY for Christian volunteers and workers to bring innovative agricultural technologies and methods to the Kashmiri.
- PRAY for God to call labourers courageous and equipped to share life and faith in Jesus.

5. Creative opportunities

Textiles and fabric production are important sectors of the local economy. Anyone with the expertise and

experience to expand and increase the profitability of the textile market will improve the lives of everyone in Kashmir. Environmental stewardship and preservation is also a deep need and opportunity as the people depend heavily on their natural resources and ecotourism. Preserving the lakes and forest is essential for the people who live in them.

- PRAY for the Kashmiri to develop their textile and fabric production, and for Christians with textile expertise to build trusting business relationships.
- PRAY for wisdom to preserve and develop their natural resources and ecotourism.
- PRAY for the people to see the splendor of God in creation and seek Him.

6. A key prayer point

Pray for access and open doors for foreign and Indian workers coming with the message of truth.

7. Why Kashmiri matter to us

The bible promises that every tribe tongue and nation will worship Jesus around the throne. We are very blessed that God has allowed us to be a part of bringing this vision into a reality. By praying for and partnering with our work in Kashmir we are helping to fulfill this promise of God (Rev 7:9).

- PRAY that the Kashmiri would worship Jesus in great numbers around the throne.
- PRAY that God's name would be honoured in the Kashmiri language.
- PRAY for people of peace among religious authorities who will not oppose the spread of house churches.

8. A Canadian connection

There is a large network of Indians in Canada praying for the unreached in their own nation.

- PRAY for Indo-Canadians as they seek God for the Kashiri people. Lord, hear their prayer.
- PRAY for God to meet with Kashmiri-Canadians

so they will come to faith in Jesus.

- PRAY that we too would continue to join the large network of Indians in Canada to see the Kashmiri reached.

9. Our partners' needs

- PRAY for favor with government and visa officials as we apply for work and business permits in addition to our family visas.
- PRAY for shelter from secret police officers and government agents for us and our national partners as we move throughout the region with the message of truth.
- PRAY for successful partnership development as we raise the necessary funds to begin ministry.

PRAY THIS SCRIPTURE

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth [including the Kashmir region].” Acts 1:8

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED using this prayer resource with a prayer partner, integrating one or two prayer points into a weekly prayer time?



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Have questions?

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