

Volume 1:7 November 2001

LANGUAGES OF INDIA ACCORDING TO THE 1991 CENSUS

B. Mallikarjun, Ph.D.

Please note that the Indian Census Organization reports that "the population of Jammu and Kashmir is not included in these figures as the 1991 census was not conducted there due to disturbed conditions."

Please also note that the names of languages given here are rather cover terms, in some sense. For, each language, for which the population figure is given in the table below, includes also some other languages, or dialects that are not explicitly presented in the table. For example, the cover term *Kannada* includes also the language or dialect Badaga. Tamil includes Kaikadi, Tamil Yerukula/Yerukula and others. Hindi includes around 48 languages, dialects, or mother tongues like Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Garhwali, etc. The statement made by the Census Organization, while presenting the abstract of languages and mother tongues, says:

Presented below is an alphabetical abstract of languages and the mother tongues with strength of 10, 000 and above at the all India level, included under each language. There are a total of 114 languages and 216 mother tongues, 18 scheduled languages and 96 not specified in the schedule.

LANGAUGES OF INDIA, 1991 CENSUS		
Scheduled Languages		
Serial No.	Language Name	Number of Persons
1.	Assamese	13,079,696
2.	Bengali	69,595,738
3.	Gujarati	40,673,814
4.	Hindi	337,272,114
5.	Kannada	32,753,676
6.	Kashmiri	56,693
7.	Konkani	1,760,607
8.	Malayalam	30,377,176
9.	Manipuri	1,270,216

10.	Marathi	62,481,681
11.	Nepali	2,076,645
12.	Oriya	28,061,313
13.	Punjabi	32,753,676
14.	Sanskrit	49,736
15.	Sindhi	2,122,848
16.	Tamil	53,006,368
17.	Telugu	66,017,615
18.	Urdu	43,406,932

Non-Scheduled Languages

Serial No.	Language Name	Number of Persons
1.	Adi	158,409
2.	Anal	12,156
3.	Angami	97,631
4.	Ao	172,449
5.	Arabic/Arbi	21,975
6.	Bhili/Bhilodi	5,572,308
7.	Bhotia	55,483
8.	Bhumij	45,302
9.	Bishnupuriya	59,233
10.	Bodo/Boro	1,221,881
11.	Chakesang	30,985
12.	Chakru/Chokri	48,207
13.	Chang	32,478
14.	Coorgi/Kodagu	97,011
15.	Deori	17,901

16.	Dimasa	88,543
17.	Dogri	89,681
18.	English	178,598
19.	Gadaba	28,158
20.	Gangte	13,695
21.	Garo	675,642
22.	Gondi	2,124,852
23.	Halabi	534,313
24.	Halam	29,322
25.	Hmar	65,204
26.	Ho	949,216
27.	Jatapu	25,730
28.	Juang	16,858
29.	Kabui	68,925
30.	Karbi/Mikri	366,229
31.	Khandeshi	973,709
32.	Kharia	225,556
33.	Khasa	912,283
34.	Khezha	13,004
35.	Khiemnungan	23,544
36.	Khond/Kondh	220,783
37.	Kinnauri	61,794
38.	Kisan	162,088
39.	Koch	26,179
40.	Koda/Kora	28,200
41.	Kolami	98,281

42.	Kom	13,548
43.	Konda	17,864
44.	Konyak	137,722
45.	Korku	466,073
46.	Korwa	27,485
47.	Koya	270,994
48.	Kui	641,662
49.	Kuki	58,263
50.	Kurukh/Oraon	1,426,618
51.	Lahauli	22,027
52.	Lahnda	27,386
53.	Lakher	22,947
54.	Lalung	33,746
55.	Lepcha	39,342
56.	Liangmei	27,478
57.	Limbu	28,174
58.	Lotha	85,802
59.	Lushai/Mizo	538,842
60.	Malto	108,148
61.	Mao	77,810
62.	Maram	10,144
63.	Maring	15,268
64.	Miri/Mishing	390,583
65.	Mishmi	29,000
66.	Mogh	28,135
67.	Monpa	43,226

68.	Munda	413,894
69.	Mundari	816,378
70.	Nicobarese	26,261
71.	Nissi/Dafla	173,791
72.	Nocte	30,441
73.	Paite	49,237
74.	Parji	44,001
75.	Pawi	15,346
76.	Phom	65,350
77.	Pochury	11,231
78.	Rabha	139,365
79.	Rengma	37,521
80.	Sangtam	47,461
81.	Santali	5,216,325
82.	Savara	273,168
83.	Sema	166,157
84.	Sherpa	16,105
85.	Tangkhul	101,841
86.	Tangsa	28,121
87.	Thado	107,992
88.	Tibetan	69,416
89.	Tripuri	694,940
90.	Tulu	1,552,259
91.	Vaiphei	26,185
92.	Wancho	39,600
93.	Yimchungre	47,227

94.	Zeliang	35,079
95.	Zemi	22,634
96.	Zou	15,966