

MAP 11

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSAMESE SPEAKERS 2011

Assamese is one of the Scheduled languages of India, mainly spoken in the eastern part of India and closely related to Bengali and Odia languages belonging to Indo-Aryan family. It is recognized as Official Language of Assam state and specified in the Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution. In Census 2011, only one mother tongue namely, Assamese with 10,000 plus speakers’ strength at all India level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Assamese. Further, mother tongues returned as variants of Assamese with less than 10,000 speakers are grouped under ‘Others’. Assamese-Bengali common script is used with specific distinctions in writing Assamese.

As per Census 2011, there are 1,53,11,351 Assamese speakers, which constitute 1.26 per cent of the country’s total population. However, Assamese speakers in the state of Assam constitute 48.38 per cent of the state’s total population. In India, substantial proportion of Assamese speakers is mainly concentrated in Assam (98.59%). The remaining Assamese speakers are distributed in Arunachal Pradesh (0.35%), Meghalaya (0.26%), Nagaland (0.11%), Maharashtra (0.08%), Uttar Pradesh (0.07%), Karnataka and NCT of Delhi (0.06% each), Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal (0.05% each), Kerala (0.04%), Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat (0.03% each), Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Manipur (0.02% each) and Tripura, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Odisha, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Sikkim (0.01% each). In the remaining Union Territories like Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry though Assamese speakers are available but their proportion is negligible. Lakshadweep is only one Union Territory where only one Assamese speaker is reported.

The map displays the geographical distribution of Assamese speakers at the district level in India. Here percentages are calculated on the basis of the number of Assamese speakers in respect to total population of that particular district. Different shades of colour are used to show the percentage distribution of Assamese speaking population throughout the country. The data presented in this map is

grouped in the percentage ranges of 0.01 to 0.20, 0.21 to 2.00, 2.01 to 20.00, 20.01 to 60.00 and 60.01 and above.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts of India, 584 districts have Assamese speaking population in Census 2011. Among these, 209 districts have reported the population of 0.01 to 0.20 per cent Assamese speakers, 26 districts fall in the range of 0.21 to 2.00 per cent, 14 districts in the range of 2.01 to 20.00 per cent, 12 districts in the range of 20.01 to 60.00 per cent and in the highest range of 60.01 per cent and above, 9 districts are noticed. Remaining 314 districts with negligible percentage of Assamese speakers (or below 0.01), have been left blank on the map along with other 56 districts having no Assamese speakers.

Among the districts of Assam, the highest proportion of Assamese speakers is noticed in Nalbari (85.88%) district, followed by Sivasagar (84.26%), Jorhat (83.42%), Golaghat (78.40%), Dibrugarh (76.01%), Kamrup (74.41%), Morigaon (73.02%), Dhubri (66.31%), Nagaon (62.84%), Kamrup Metropolitan (57.87%), Lakhimpur (57.80%), Goalpara (51.81%), Darrang (49.29%), Bongaigaon (49.00%), Tinsukia (47.81%), Dhemaji (39.21%), Baksa (37.77%), Barpeta (36.15%), Sonitpur (36.07%), Kokrajhar (23.78%), Udalguri (22.62%), Chirang (17.66%), Karbi Anglong (7.69%), Dima Hasao (1.89%), Cachar (0.44%), Karimganj (0.25%) districts and the lowest in Hailakandi (0.11%) district. However, significant proportion of Assamese speakers other than Assam is returned from Lohit (14.68%) district followed by Papum Pare (4.97%), West Kameng (4.17%), Tawang (3.89%), Lower Dibang Valley (3.75%), Changlang (3.50%), East Siang (2.77%), Dibang Valley (2.70%) and Lower Subansiri (2.35%) districts of Arunachal Pradesh; Ribhoi (3.08%) and East Garo Hills (2.49%) districts of Meghalaya and Dimapur (2.16%) district of Nagaland.

The distribution of Assamese speakers in the States/Union Territories along with percentage to the total Assamese speakers and cumulative percentage is given in Table 11.

TABLE 11

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSAMESE SPEAKERS 2011

Sl. No.	India/States/Union Territories	Assamese Speakers		
		Number	% Share*	Cum. %
1	2	3	4	5
	INDIA	1,53,11,351	100.00	
1	ASSAM	1,50,95,797	98.59	98.59
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	53,951	0.35	98.94
3	MEGHALAYA	39,628	0.26	99.20
4	NAGALAND	17,201	0.11	99.32
5	MAHARASHTRA	12,842	0.08	99.40
6	UTTAR PRADESH	10,356	0.07	99.47
7	KARNATAKA	9,871	0.06	99.53
8	NCT OF DELHI	8,573	0.06	99.59
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	8,340	0.05	99.64
10	WEST BENGAL	7,342	0.05	99.69
11	KERALA	5,796	0.04	99.73
12	HARYANA	4,204	0.03	99.76
13	PUNJAB	4,090	0.03	99.78
14	GUJARAT	3,935	0.03	99.81
15	RAJASTHAN	2,877	0.02	99.83
16	ANDHRA PRADESH	2,648	0.02	99.84
17	TAMIL NADU	2,594	0.02	99.86

Sl. No.	India/States/Union Territories	Assamese Speakers		
		Number	% Share*	Cum. %
1	2	3	4	5
18	MANIPUR	2,453	0.02	99.88
19	TRIPURA	2,129	0.01	99.89
20	BIHAR	2,087	0.01	99.90
21	MADHYA PRADESH	1,870	0.01	99.92
22	UTTARAKHAND	1,656	0.01	99.93
23	CHHATTISGARH	1,595	0.01	99.94
24	JHARKHAND	1,324	0.01	99.95
25	MIZORAM	1,266	0.01	99.95
26	DAMAN & DIU	1,201	0.01	99.96
27	ODISHA	1,123	0.01	99.97
28	GOA	1,107	0.01	99.98
29	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1,049	0.01	99.98
30	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	957	0.01	99.99
31	SIKKIM	848	0.01	100.00
32	CHANDIGARH	435	0.00	100.00
33	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR IS.	115	0.00	100.00
34	PUDUCHERRY	90	0.00	100.00
35	LAKSHADWEEP	1	0.00	100.00

\*The sum of State/UT percentage values may not add up to 100 due to round off and may also not match with cumulative percentage values.

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