## **MAP 63**

## DISTRIBUTION OF RABHA, RAI, RENGMA AND SANGTAM LANGUAGES 2011

The geographical distribution of four Non-Scheduled languages namely, Rabha, Rai, Rengma and Sangtam are shown in four separate maps at the district level according to Census 2011. The speakers of these four languages are categorized as per their absolute number and grouped into four ranges viz. 10 and below, 11 to 100, 101 to 1,000 and 1,001 and above. Districts falling in each range are shaded by colours of different intensities and their number is written within brackets against each range. Remaining districts with 'nil' speaker of particular language are left blank on the map.

**Rabha** is one of the Non-Scheduled languages of India, mainly spoken in Assam state. Rabha language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. In Census 2011 one mother tongue namely, Rabha with 10,000 plus speakers' strength at all India level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Rabha and the mother tongues returned as variants of Rabha with less than 10,000 speakers are grouped under 'Others'. Assamese script is reported to be used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 1,39,986 Rabha speakers which constitute 0.01 per cent of the country's total population. Out of which 1,01,752 speakers are distributed in Assam state which covers 72.69 per cent of the total Rabha population of the country. However, these speakers are only 0.33 per cent of the state's total population. Besides this, Rabha speakers are seen in Meghalaya (21,671), West Bengal (14,387), Gujarat (1,112), Rajasthan (634), Nagaland (131), Arunachal Pradesh (89), Tripura (43), Maharashtra (30), Madhya Pradesh (27), Sikkim (19), Manipur (18), Kerala (14), Odisha (9), NCT of Delhi and Mizoram (8 each), Daman & Diu (7), Jammu & Kashmir (6), Punjab (5), Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand (3 each), Uttarakhand, Bihar and Karnataka (2 each) and Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (1 each). In the remaining 7 States/Union Territories not a single speaker of this language is recorded during Census 2011.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts, 157 districts have Rabha speakers in India. The overall picture of 157 districts towards the speakers' strength of Rabha speaking populace shows that their number is 10 and below in 98 districts, 11 to 100 in 35 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 10 districts and 1,001 and above in 14 districts.

Among the districts of Assam, the highest numbers of Rabha speakers are spread in Goalpara (52,183), Kokrajhar (22,884), Kamrup (7,692), Udalguri (6,830), Baksa (2,275), Chirang (2,151), Dhemaji (1,835), Bongaigaon (1,653), Sontipur (1,143), Kamrup Metropolitan (1,102) and Golaghat (569) districts. Rest of the districts of Assam has recorded less than 500 speakers during Census 2011. Outside Assam, significant number of Rabha speakers is distributed in West Garo Hills (16,140), East Garo Hills (4,929), Ribhoi (283) and East Khasi Hills (235) districts of Meghalaya; Jalpaiguri (13,192) and Koch Bihar (1,183) districts of West Bengal; Banas Kantha (982) district of Gujarat and Hanumangarh (131) district of Rajasthan. In the remaining districts, the Rabha speakers are recorded below 100 in number.

**Rai** is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Rai with 10,000 plus speakers at all India level is grouped under Rai as variant and rest of the mother tongues returned as variants of Rai are grouped under 'Others' as they have less than 10,000 population. Kirat Rai script is reported to be used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 15,644 Rai speakers, which constitute 0.001 per cent of the country's total population. This language is mainly spoken in Sikkim (7,471) with 47.76 per cent and Arunachal Pradesh (3,897) with 24.91 per cent Rai speakers of the country. Together they cover 72.67 per cent of the total Rai speakers in India. Among other states, Rai speakers have been found in Odisha (1,810), Assam (1,110), West Bengal (379), Uttarakhand (268), Rajasthan (176), Bihar (159), Manipur (146) and Maharashtra (105). In 11 States/Union Territories the number of Rai speakers is below 50. Contrary to this, no Rai speakers are reported from 14 States/Union Territories as per Census 2011.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 76 districts have reported the presence of Rai speakers. The overall picture of 76 districts towards the speakers' strength of Rai speaking populace shows that their number is 10 and below in 46 districts, 11 to 100 in 14 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 10 districts and 1,001 and above in 6 districts.

Among the districts in Sikkim, the highest number of Rai speakers are noticed in South District (2,423) followed by West District (2,381), East District (2,135) and North District (532). Among the districts in Arunachal Pradesh, the highest number of Rai speakers are noticed in Kurung Kumey

(1,933) district followed by East Kameng (1,669), Papum Pare (185), Lower Dibang Valley (46) and Anjaw (30) districts. Other 8 districts of Arunachal Pradesh have less than 10 Rai speakers. Outside Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, significant number of Rai speakers are also recorded in Sundargarh (1,805) district of Odisha; Karbi Anglong (559), Golaghat (204) and Tinsukia (202) districts of Assam; Darjiling (267) district of West Bengal; Pithoragarh (263) district of Uttarakhand; Ganganagar (175) district of Rajasthan; Supaul (159) district of Bihar and Senapati (146) district of Manipur. In the remaining districts the number of Rai speakers is below 100 as per Census 2011.

**Rengma** is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Nagaland. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Rengma with 10,000 plus speakers at all India level is grouped under Rengma as variant. Roman script is reported to be used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 65,328 Rengma speakers, which constitute 0.01 per cent of the country's total population. This language is mainly spoken in Nagaland (61,537) with 94.20 per cent of the total Rengma speakers in India and 3.11 per cent to the state's total population. Besides Nagaland, Rengma speakers have been found in Assam (3,149), Uttarakhand (503), Meghalaya (49), Arunachal Pradesh (30), West Bengal (15) and NCT of Delhi (10) and below 10 in 14 States/Union Territories. Contrary to this, no Rengma speakers are reported in 14 States/Union Territories in Census 2011.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 54 districts have reported the presence of Rengma speakers. The overall picture of 54 districts towards the speakers' strength of Rengma speaking populace shows that their number is 10 and below in 38 districts, 11 to 100 in 7 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 6 districts and 1,001 and above in 3 districts.

Among the districts in Nagaland, the highest concentration of Rengma speakers is noticed in Kohima (57,728) district. It is followed by Dimapur (3,044), Peren (241), Wokha (169), Phek (121) and Mokokchung (103) districts. Remaining 5 districts have 50 and below Rengma speakers.

Outside Nagaland, significant number of Rengma speakers is also recorded in Karbi Anglong (2,952), Cachar (124) and Dima Hasao (57) districts of Assam; Uttarkashi (498) district of Uttarakhand; East Khasi Hills (43) district of Meghalaya; Tawang (16) and Papum Pare (12) districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Puruliya (10) district of West Bengal.

**Sangtam** is one of the Non-Scheduled languages and classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Nagaland. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Sangtam with 10,000 plus speakers at all India level is grouped under Sangtam as variant and rest of the mother tongues returned as variants of Sangtam are grouped under 'Others' as they have less than 10,000 population. Roman script is reported to be used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 76,000 Sangtam speakers which constitute 0.01 per cent of the country's total population. This language is mainly spoken in Nagaland (75,841) with 99.79 per cent of the total Sangtam speakers in the country and 3.83 per cent to the state's total population. These speakers are also available in Assam (82), Meghalaya (26), Uttarakhand (11) and Manipur (10) and in other 13 States/Union Territories, where the number of Sangtam speakers is below 10. No Sangtam speaker is recorded in rest of the 17 States/Union Territories during Census 2011.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 43 districts have reported the presence of Sangtam speakers. The overall picture of 43 districts towards the speakers' strength of Sangtam speaking populace shows that their number is 10 and below in 30 districts, 11 to 100 in 3 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 6 districts and 1,001 and above in 4 districts.

Among the districts in Nagaland, the highest proportion of Sangtam speakers is noticed in Kiphire (34,247) district followed by Tuensang (32,392), Dimapur (5,634), Kohima (1,650), Mokokchung (838), Phek (256), Mon (231), Peren (229), Wokha (177), Zunheboto (167) districts and the lowest in Longleng (20) district. Outside Nagaland, significant number of Sangtam speakers are recorded in Karbi Anglong (68) and Golaghat (9) districts of Assam; East Khasi Hills (22) district of Meghalaya and Uttarkashi (8) district of Uttarakhand. In 28 other districts, Sangtam speakers are reported below 5 in number.

The distribution of Rabha, Rai, Rengma and Sangtam speakers along with the cumulative percentage in the States/Union Territories is given in Table 63 in Annexure–I.

