

MAP 30

DISTRIBUTION OF TAMIL SPEAKERS 2011

Tamil is one of the Scheduled languages spoken in India mainly in its southern part, i.e., in the state of Tamil Nadu and in the adjoining areas. It falls under the Dravidian family of languages. It is declared as Official Language of the state of Tamil Nadu and has been specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. In Census 2011, five mother tongues which returned 10,000 or more speakers at all India level are grouped under Tamil as variants. They are Irula/Irular Mozhi, Kaikadi, Korava, Tamil and Yerukala/Yerukula. Rest of the mother tongues returned less than 10,000 speakers as variants of Tamil are grouped under ‘Others’. The script which is used in writing Tamil, owes its origin to Brahmi script and it is known as vaTTeLuttu, i.e., the script having a round shape.

As per Census 2011, there are 6,90,26,881 Tamil speakers which cover 5.70 per cent of the country’s total population. However, the share of Tamil speakers in Tamil Nadu is 88.37 per cent of the state’s total population. Similarly, in Puducherry Union Territory, the Tamil speakers reported 11,00,976 which comes to 88.22 per cent of the UT’s population. In India, Tamil speakers are mainly concentrated in the state of Tamil Nadu (92.36%), Karnataka (3.06%), Puducherry (1.59%), Andhra Pradesh (1.03%), Maharashtra (0.74%), Kerala (0.73%) and NCT of Delhi (0.12%) which together constitute 99.63 per cent of the Tamil speakers. Other States/Union Territories having Tamil speakers are Andaman & Nicobar Islands (0.08%), Gujarat (0.06%), Madhya Pradesh (0.03%), West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab (0.02% each) and Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Goa, Odisha, Chandigarh and Assam (0.01% each). In the remaining States/UTs their proportion is negligible.

The map displays the geographical distribution of Tamil speakers at district level in India. Here percentages are calculated on the basis of the number of Tamil speakers in respect to total population of that particular district. Different shades of colour are used in this map to show the percentage distribution of Tamil 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 80.00 and 80.01 and above.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts, 626 districts have Tamil speaking population in India. Among these,

332 districts have reported 0.01 to 0.20 per cent Tamil speakers, 63 districts have registered 0.21 to 2.00 per cent, 15 districts have registered 2.01 to 20.00 per cent, 6 districts have been found in the range of 20.01 to 80.00 per cent and 29 districts have registered 80.01 per cent and above Tamil speakers. Remaining 181 districts with negligible proportion along with 14 other districts with ‘nil’ Tamil speakers have been left blank on the map.

Among the districts in Tamil Nadu, the highest proportion of Tamil speakers is noticed in Nagapattinam (99.42%) district followed by Thiruvavarur (99.40%), Ariyalur (99.27%), Pudukkottai (99.23%), Sivaganga (99.14%), Tirunelveli (98.54%), Perambalur (97.92%), Ramanathapuram (97.67%), Cuddalore (97.59%), Thanjavur (97.42%), Thoothukkudi (97.00%), Viluppuram (96.65%), Tiruchirappalli (95.67%), Thiruvannamalai (94.31%), Kanniyakumari (93.94%), Madurai (92.56%), Karur (91.95%), Dindigul (91.52%) and Kanchhepuram (90.06%) districts reporting above 90 per cent Tamil speakers. The districts of Virudhunagar (89.51%), Salem (88.48%), Dharampuri (87.90%), Namakkal (87.08%), Tiruppur (83.82%), Thiruvallur (83.48%), Erode (81.76%) and Vellore (80.36%) have the concentration of Tamil speakers between 80 to 90 per cent. The districts recording Tamil speakers between 50 to 80 per cent are Theni (79.04%), Chennai (78.34%), Coimbatore (69.13%) and Krishnagiri (58.23%). The lowest proportion of Tamil speakers in Tamil Nadu is noticed in The Nilgiris (49.62%) district.

Outside Tamil Nadu state, significant proportion of Tamil speakers are recorded in Karaikal (98.29%) and Puducherry (95.12%) districts in Puducherry UT; South Andaman (20.70%), Nicobars (6.10%) and North & Middle Andaman (5.94%) districts in Andaman & Nicobar Islands UT; Idukki (17.48%) and Palakkad (4.95%) districts in Kerala; Bangalore (15.20%), Kolar (10.99%), Chamarajanagar (4.58%), Kodagu (4.23%), Shimoga (4.17%), Chikmagalur (3.75%), Bangalore Rural (3.29%) and Mysore (2.22%) districts in Karnataka and Chittoor (10.36%) district in Andhra Pradesh state.

The distribution of Tamil speakers and percentage to the total Tamil speakers along with the cumulative percentage in the States/ Union Territories is given in the following Table 30.

TABLE 30

DISTRIBUTION OF TAMIL SPEAKERS 2011

Sl. No.	India/States/Union Territories	Tamil Speakers		
		Number	% Share*	Cum. %
1	2	3	4	5
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>6,90,26,881</b>	<b>100.00</b>	
1	TAMIL NADU	6,37,53,997	92.36	92.36
2	KARNATAKA	21,10,128	3.06	95.42
3	PUDUCHERRY	11,00,976	1.59	97.01
4	ANDHRA PRADESH	7,13,848	1.03	98.05
5	MAHARASHTRA	5,09,887	0.74	98.79
6	KERALA	5,02,516	0.73	99.51
7	NCT OF DELHI	82,719	0.12	99.63
8	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR IS.	57,830	0.08	99.72
9	GUJARAT	40,072	0.06	99.78
10	MADHYA PRADESH	20,544	0.03	99.81
11	WEST BENGAL	15,930	0.02	99.83
12	JAMMU & KASHMIR	14,728	0.02	99.85
13	UTTAR PRADESH	14,444	0.02	99.87
14	HARYANA	12,658	0.02	99.89
15	PUNJAB	10,389	0.02	99.90
16	CHHATTISGARH	10,334	0.01	99.92
17	JHARKHAND	10,061	0.01	99.93

Sl. No.	India/States/Union Territories	Tamil Speakers		
		Number	% Share*	Cum. %
1	2	3	4	5
18	RAJASTHAN	8,939	0.01	99.95
19	GOA	6,947	0.01	99.96
20	ODISHA	6,155	0.01	99.97
21	CHANDIGARH	5,579	0.01	99.97
22	ASSAM	5,229	0.01	99.98
23	UTTARAKHAND	2,584	0.00	99.98
24	MANIPUR	1,657	0.00	99.99
25	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1,246	0.00	99.99
26	NAGALAND	1,127	0.00	99.99
27	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1,038	0.00	99.99
28	BIHAR	986	0.00	99.99
29	TRIPURA	929	0.00	100.00
30	MEGHALAYA	913	0.00	100.00
31	SIKKIM	762	0.00	100.00
32	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	739	0.00	100.00
33	LAKSHADWEEP	364	0.00	100.00
34	DAMAN & DIU	320	0.00	100.00
35	MIZORAM	306	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.

