

MAP 67

DISTRIBUTION OF ZELIANG, ZEMI, ZOU AND OTHERS LANGUAGES 2011

The geographical distribution of four Non-Scheduled languages namely, Zeliang, Zemi, Zou and Other languages (having below 10,000 speakers) 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 are left blank on the map.

Zeliang is a Tibeto-Burman language under Non-Scheduled languages of India. The term Zeliang is coined by combining two words ‘Ze’ and ‘Liang’, representing two tribal names, Zemei or Zemi and Liangmei. Zeliang people believe that Ramtinkabit in the northern district of Manipur is the birth place, named after a big stone “Ramtinkabit”. The language itself is the name of the community and it belongs to the Kuki-Naga section of the Kamarupan group of the Baric sub-division of Tibeto-Burman family of languages (Matisoff, 2001). In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Zeliang which returned with 10,000 plus speakers’ strength at all India level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Zeliang as variant. Zeliang language did not receive any official status in the state. Roman script is used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 63,529 Zeliang speakers, which constitute 0.01 per cent of the country’s total population. This is mainly spoken in Nagaland (60,399) with 95.07 per cent, Manipur (2,727) with 4.29 per cent and Meghalaya (302) with 0.48 per cent share and together they cover 99.84 per cent of the total Zeliang speakers in the country. In Nagaland, Zeliang speakers are 3.05 per cent of the state’s total population. Besides these, Zeliang speakers are recorded in Assam (44), Tripura and West Bengal (10 each), below 10 in 11 States/UTs and ‘nil’ in 18 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 49 districts have reported the presence of Zeliang speakers. The overall picture of 49 districts towards the speakers’ strength of Zeliang shows that their number is 10 and below in 36 districts, 11 to 100 in 8 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 1 district and 1,001 and above in 4 districts.

Among the districts in Nagaland, the highest number of Zeliang speakers is registered in Peren (54,467) district followed by Dimapur (4,527), Kohima (1,143), Mokokchung (80), Wokha (53), Phek (52), Tuensang (34), Zunheboto (20), Mon (13) districts and below 10 in Longleng (8) and Kiphire (2) districts. Outside Nagaland, Zeliang speakers are significant in Senapati (2,710) district of Manipur and in Ribhoi (279) and East Khasi Hills (20) districts of Meghalaya and recorded below 10 in rest of the districts.

Zemi is a Tibeto-Burman language under Non-Scheduled languages of India mainly spoken in three adjoining north-eastern states of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The Zemi Naga of Assam is also known as Jemi or Zemi or Zemei which inhabit the North Cachar district of Assam. The language is used strongly for oral communication but not much in written form. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Zemi which returned with 10,000 plus speakers’ strength at all India level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Zemi as variant and rest of the mother tongues returned as variants of Zemi are grouped under ‘Others’. Roman script is used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 50,925 Zemi speakers, which constitute 0.004 per cent of the country’s total population. Zemi is mainly spoken in Assam (20,723) with 40.69 per cent, Manipur (18,795) with 36.91 per cent and Nagaland (11,165) with 21.92 per cent share among total Zemi speaking population. Together they cover 99.52 per cent of the total Zemi speakers of India. In Assam, the share of Zemi speakers is 0.07 per cent, in Nagaland it is 0.56 per cent and in Manipur it is 0.66 per cent of the respective state’s population. Besides these states, Zemi speakers are also recorded in Maharashtra (68), Kerala (64), Mizoram and Meghalaya (26 each), NCT of Delhi (15) and Tamil Nadu (11) States/UTs and below 10 in the 9 States and ‘nil’ in 17 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 49 districts have reported the presence of Zemi speakers. The overall picture of 49 districts towards the speakers’ strength of Zemi shows that their number is 10 and below in 34 districts, 11 to 100 in 9 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 2 districts and 1,001 and above in 4 districts.

Among the districts in Assam, the Zemi speakers is registered the highest in Dima Hasao (20,657) district followed by Kamrup Metropolitan (28) and Karbi Anglong (20) districts and less than 10 in other 5 districts. In Manipur, Zemi speakers are mainly found in Tamenglong (11,181), Senapati (7,576) and Imphal East (22) districts and below 10 in other 4 districts. In Nagaland, Zemi speakers are the highest in Peren (10,823), followed by Kohima (203), Dimapur (125) and Phek (10) districts and below 10 in 2 other districts. Outside these 3 states, the Zemi speakers are also noticed in Thiruvananthapuram (59) district of Kerala; Raigarh (50) and Pune (15) districts of Maharashtra; East Khasi Hills

(25) district of Meghalaya; Aizawl (21) district of Mizoram and Chennai (11) district of Tamil Nadu and below 10 in rest of the districts.

Zou is one of the Non-Scheduled languages of India and it is classified under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. It is mainly spoken in the state of Manipur. In Census 2011, one mother tongue namely, Zou which returned with 10,000 plus speakers’ strength at all India level and linguistically identified, is grouped under Zou as variant. Zolai script is used for writing this language.

As per Census 2011, there are 26,545 Zou speakers, constituting 0.002 per cent of the country’s total population. This language is mainly spoken in Manipur (25,861) with 97.42 per cent, Meghalaya (292) with 1.10 per cent and Mizoram (128) with 0.48 per cent share among total Zou speakers of the country. Together they cover 99.01 per cent of the Zou speakers in India. In Manipur, Zou speakers’ share is 0.91 per cent of the state’s total population. Besides, Zou speakers are also found in NCT of Delhi (54), Assam (40), Nagaland (31), Andhra Pradesh (30), Karnataka (20), Punjab (17) and West Bengal (15), below 10 in 13 States/UTs and ‘nil’ in 12 States/UTs.

The district-wise distribution reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 84 districts have reported the presence of Zou speakers. The overall picture of 84 districts towards the speakers’ strength of Zou shows that their number is 10 and below in 68 districts, 11 to 100 in 11 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 3 districts and 1,001 and above in 2 districts.

Among the districts in Manipur, the highest number of Zou speakers is in Churachandpur (20,305) district followed by Chandel (4,878), Imphal West (306), Imphal East (305), Senapati (46), Thoubal (18) and Tamenglong (3) districts. Outside Manipur, Zou speakers are recorded in East Khasi Hills (279) district of Meghalaya; Aizawl (84), Lunglei (16) and Champhai (13) districts of Mizoram; South West (27) and South (18) districts of NCT of Delhi; East Godavari (19) and Hyderabad (11) districts of Andhra Pradesh; Bangalore (18) district of Karnataka; Kamrup Metropolitan (12) district of Assam and Dimapur and Phek (10 each) districts of Nagaland and below 10 in remaining districts.

‘Others’ category is nothing but other than 22 Scheduled and 99 Non-Scheduled languages i.e., 373 (includes foreign languages) Other Tongues under Classified Mother Tongues and 1474 Unclassified Mother Tongues which have been returned by less than 10,000 speakers according to Census 2011.

As per Census 2011, the group called “Others” have been returned by 18,75,542 speakers which constitute 0.15 per cent of the total population of India. Mother Tongues contained in “Others” have been returned in all the 35 States/UTs of India. Among the percentages of Others in States/UTs, the group has recorded the highest of 14.44 per cent in Lakshadweep (9,311 speakers) followed by 12.19 per cent in Nagaland (2,41,257 speakers), 5.46 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh (75,606 speakers), 4.41 per cent in Meghalaya (1,30,848 speakers), 1.17 per cent in Manipur (33,497 speakers) and 1.00 per cent in Mizoram (10,919 speakers). The remaining States/UTs have less than one per cent speakers for “Others”. Beyond the above said States/UTs, numerically the ‘Others’ speakers are returned the highest in Karnataka (3,86,552), Odisha (2,27,179), Assam (1,96,436), Maharashtra (1,34,081), Gujarat (66,603), West Bengal (65,874), Madhya Pradesh (60,814), Bihar (47,092), Rajasthan (43,104), Jharkhand (24,458), Andhra Pradesh (19,173), Jammu & Kashmir (16,642), Tamil Nadu (16,195), Himachal Pradesh (13,677), Kerala (9,597), NCT of Delhi (6,100), Punjab (5,524), Sikkim (5,333), Tripura (5,140), Uttarakhand (4,561), Chhattisgarh (4,353), Uttar Pradesh (3,808), Haryana (3,579), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2,915), Goa (1,873), Daman & Diu (1,716), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (666), Chandigarh (643) and the lowest in Puducherry (416 speakers).

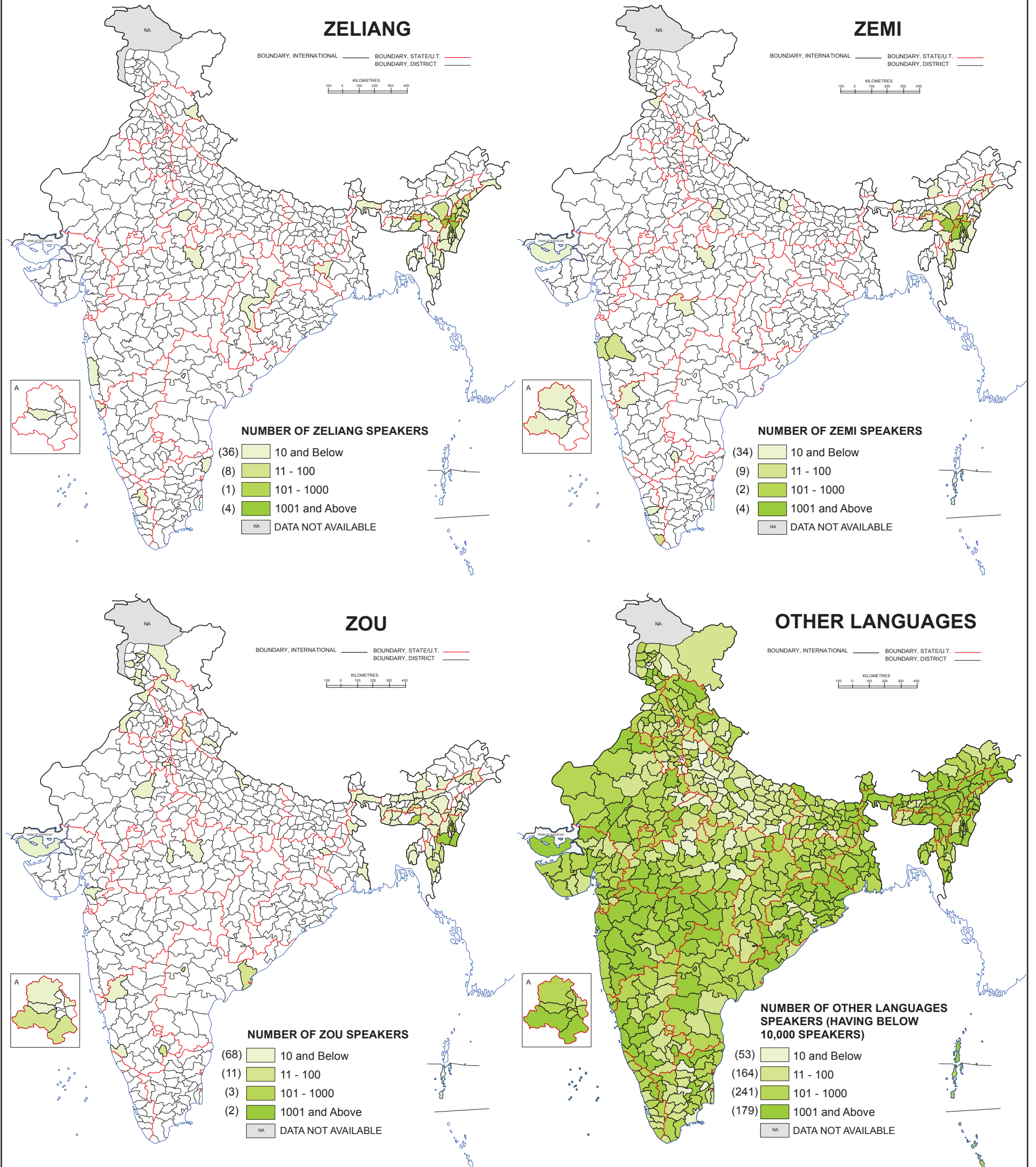
The district-wise distribution of other languages reveals that out of 640 districts in India, 637 districts have reported the presence of “Others” speakers. The overall picture of 637 districts towards the speakers’ strength of “Others” shows that their number is 10 and below in 53 districts, 11 to 100 in 164 districts, 101 to 1,000 in 241 districts and 1,001 and above in 179 districts.

Among the districts, the Mother Tongues under “Others” are recorded the highest in Dakshina Kannada (3,35,775) district in Karnataka state, the figure being taken in absolute terms, followed by Zunheboto (1,34,503) and Dimapur (80,537) districts in Nagaland; West Khasi Hills (1,17,584) district in Meghalaya; Mayurbhanj (62,224), Kendujhar (30,667) and Baleswar (25,451) districts in Odisha; Banas Kantha (52,077) district in Gujarat, Sonitpur (47,347) and Tinsukia (27,337) districts in Assam; Lohit (29,979) district in Arunachal Pradesh and Thane (26,460) district in Maharashtra. In Other 625 districts, the Other languages speakers are below 25,000 whereas they are ‘nil’ in remaining districts (2 districts in Uttar Pradesh and one district in Puducherry UT).

The distribution of Zeliang, Zemi, Zou and Other languages speakers along with the cumulative percentage in the States/Union Territories is given in Table 67 in Annexure-I.

INDIA

DISTRIBUTION OF ZELIANG, ZEMI, ZOU AND OTHER LANGUAGES 2011



Figures within brackets indicate number of districts in the respective ranges.
The districts having no speaker of the respective languages are left blank.