



This Issue:

- **News: 2002 provisional estimates of birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate released**
- **CensusInfo India –CD on Census data and Maps**
- **Feature: Languages of West Bengal in Census and Surveys**

News:

Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India released the provisional estimates of vital rates for India and the states/union territories based on Sample Registration System for 2002. The vital rates for India in the last six years (1997 – 2002) are as follows:

Table1: Estimated Crude Birth rate, Crude Death rate, Natural growth rate and Infant mortality rate (1997 – 2002)

Year	Birth rate	Death rate	Natural growth rate	Infant mortality rate
2002*	25.0	8.1	16.9	64
2001	25.4	8.4	17.0	66
2000	25.8	8.5	17.3	68
1999	26.0	8.7	17.3	70
1998	26.5	9.0	17.5	72
1997	27.2	8.9	18.3	71

* - Provisional estimates

Source: Sample Registration System, ORGI, New Delhi

The latest estimates show the continuing downtrend in all the vital rates in India. Among the states and union territories the lowest crude birth rate was estimated for Goa (14.0) followed by Chandigarh (14.6). Crude death rate was lowest in Chandigarh (3.4) followed by Manipur (4.6) and the Infant mortality rate lowest in Kerala (10) followed by Mizoram (15). On the other end of the spectrum Uttar Pradesh had the highest birth rate (31.6) followed by Bihar (30.9). Among the states highest death rate was reported from Orissa (9.8) followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (both at 9.7). Infant mortality rate was highest in Orissa (87) followed by Madhya Pradesh (85). A copy of the latest SRS Bulletin (Volume 37, No. 2, October 2003) providing the provisional estimates of vital rates for 2002 has been made available at <http://www.censusindia.net/vs/srs/bulletins/> for free download.

GIS Software on CD: CensusInfo India

The CensusInfo India 2001 software is the latest software from the Census organisation, which enables accessing latest Census data and maps on a wide array of indicators. At the backend is a huge database of maps and census data up to sub-district level. It has now become very easy to present and spatially analyse census data with the help of CensusInfo India. Developed in collaboration with UNICEF India the software is already popular with the data users. The software is priced

at

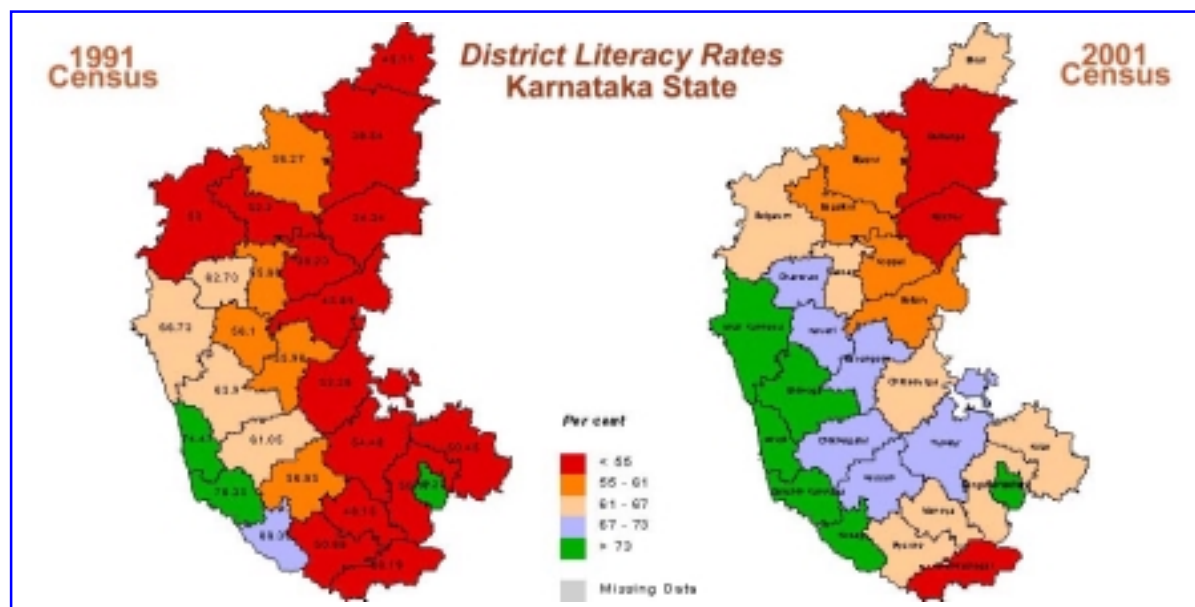
Rs 1000/- (or USD 96). All future datasets based on 2001 Census released by census will be made available for use in CensusInfo India.

Facsimile of CensusInfo India Home Page:



CensusInfo India Home Page (see above) provides links to all the basic operations of generating tables and maps for each of the states and union territories of India up to the sub-district level. It is easy to use software and the final tables and maps could be freely exported to any presentation, report or spreadsheet. After selecting the database appropriate to each state one would have to select Indicator(s), Time (Census Year(s)) and Area (State, district or sub-district) and generate table, chart or colour map on any census theme. There is also provision for computing variables.

Sample maps generated using CensusInfo India:



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Tutorial

A PowerPoint presentation describing the steps involved in using CensusInfo India has been made available at the Census of India website at <http://www.censusindia.net/results/censusinfo.html>. Hands on training is being provided free at 30 Census Offices across the country. Interested persons may also like to contact the Data Dissemination Wing, ORGI for free training on using CensusInfo India (email: rgoffice@censusindia.net).

Special Feature: Languages of West Bengal in Census and Surveys

(by Dr S P Dutta, Research Officer, Language Division, Office of the Registrar General, India , Kolkata)

At the 1991 Census the state of West Bengal returned altogether 91 languages (inclusive of Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Languages). The total of the state population speaking these languages were 68,077,965 comprising of 65,793,061 (or 96.24%) speakers of Scheduled languages and 2,284,904 (or 3.36%) speakers of Non-Scheduled languages, including the speakers of other languages (44,735).

	Language	Speakers	%		Language	Speakers	%
1	Bengali	58,541,519	85.99	6	Kurukh/Oraon	192,833	0.28
2	Hindi	4,479,170	6.57	7	Oriya	170,001	0.25
3	Santali	1,858,010	2.72	8	Telugu	108,443	0.15
4	Urdu	1,455,649	2.13	9	Punjabi	71,376	0.10
5	Nepali	860,403	1.26	10	Munda	46,328	0.06

In 1991 the largest five linguistic communities in West Bengal constituted about 98.7% (see Table 2 above). The rest 87 linguistic groups including "others" cover about 1.3%. Further, among these five largest linguistics groups the Bengali and Santali speakers are mostly rural based and their proportion in rural areas are 76.6% and 95.6% respectively against their urban concentration at 23.4% and 4.42%. In comparison, the Hindi speaking population is mostly confined to the urban areas (71.0%). Equally important to note is that whereas Urdu speakers are mainly returned from the urban areas of the state (76.2%), Nepali speakers were found mostly in rural areas (76.8%). A table showing the linguistic composition of the state of West Bengal in 1991 Census is given at the Annexure.

Family Groups

The Scheduled Languages are those languages, which have been specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. There were in all 18 Scheduled Languages in the country. The remaining languages, dialects not categorized as Scheduled Languages are categorized as Non-Scheduled Languages. In The languages returned from West Bengal (including both 'Scheduled and 'Non-Scheduled') belong to five language families. West Bengal among these families Indo-Europeans rank highest (96.44%). The proportions of other language families are negligible (see Table 3) in comparison to the others (i.e. Austric, Dravidian, Tibeto-Chinese and Semito-Hamitic) which comprise the balance 3.56% of the total population.

Table 3: Family-wise grouping of the Scheduled and the Non-Scheduled languages in West Bengal: 1991 Census			
Language Families	Number of languages	Persons returning the language as their mother tongue	Percentage to total population
1. Indo-European	18	65,655,308	96.44%
(a) Indo-Aryan	17	65,638,201	96.42%
(b) Germanic	1	15,394	0.02%
2. Austric	13	1,971,892	2.90%
3. Dravidian	14	348,909	0.51%
4. Tibeto Chinese	45	55,408	0.08%
5. Semito Hamitic	1	1,713	0.00%
Total:	91	68,033,230	99.93%
Other languages		44,735	0.07%
Grand Total:		68,077,965	100.00%

The names of the 91 Scheduled and Non-Scheduled languages falling in the above five language families are given below. Scheduled languages are indicated by a suffix '(s)'. Of the 18 Scheduled languages in West Bengal, 13 belong to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family, 4 in the Dravidian family and 1 in the Tibeto-Chinese family.

The classification of languages by families in West Bengal is as follows:

Indo European:

(a) Indo-Aryan

1. Assamese (s), 2. Bengali (s), 3. Bhili/Bhilodi, 4. Dogri, 5. Gujarati (s), 6. Hindi (s), 7. Kashmiri (s), 8. Khandeshi, 9. Konkani (s), 10. Lahnda, 11. Marathi (s), 12. Nepali (s), 13. Oriya (s), 14. Punjabi (s), 15. Sanskrit (s), 16. Sindhi (s), 17. Urdu (s),

(b) Germanic

1. English

Austric:

1. Bhumij, 2. Ho, 3. Juang, 4. Karmali, 5. Kharia, 6. Khasi, 7. Koda/Kora, 8. Korku, 9. Korwa, 10. Munda, 11. Mundari, 12. Santali, 13. Savara

Dravidian:

1. Coorgi/Kodagu, 2. Gondi, 3. Kannada, 4. Khond/Kondh, 5. Kisan, 6. Konda, 7. Koya, 8. Kurukh/Oraon, 9. Malayalam, 10. Malto, 11. Parji, 12. Tamil, 13. Telugu, 14. Tulu

Tibeto-Chinese:

1. Adi, 2. Anal, 3. Ao, 4. Bhotia, 5. Bodo/Boro, 6. Chakru/Chokri, 7. Chang, 8. Deori, 9. Dimasa, 10. Gangte, 11. Garo, 12. Halam, 13. Hmar, 14. Karbi/Mikir, 15. Koch, 16. Kom, 17. Konyak, 18. Kuki, 19. Lepcha, 20. Liangmei, 21. Limbu, 22. Lushai/Mizo, 23. Manipuri, 24. Mao, 25. Miri/Mishing, 26. Mishmi, 27. Mogh, 28. Nissi/Dafla, 29. Paite, 30. Phom, 31. Rabha, 32. Rengma, 33. Sangtam, 34. Sema, 35. Sherpa, 36. Tangkhul, 37. Tangsa, 38. Thado, 39. Tibetan, 40. Tripuri, 41. KokBarak, 42. Vaiphei, 43. Wancho, 44. Zou

Semito Hamitic:

1. Arabic/Arbi.

Grouping of Mother Tongues into Languages:

Out of the 18 constitutionally recognised scheduled languages spoken in West Bengal, 7 have more than one mother tongue grouped under each of them. In Table 4 below are presented these seven languages, which have more than one mother tongue grouped under each and have been returned by at least 10,000 speakers in India.

Table 4: Distribution of the 18 Scheduled languages and their mother tongues (Having a minimum of 10000 speakers in India) included under them in West Bengal -1991, with their language family-wise classification.

Language/Mother Tongue	Persons	Males	Females
West Bengal			
1 Bengali	58,541,519	30,229,670	28,311,849
1 Bengali	58,434,705	30,174,049	28,260,656
2 Chakma	11	4	7
3 Haijong/Hajong	1	1	0
4 Rajbangsi	31,263	16,302	14,961
5 Other*	75,589	39,314	36,225
2 Gujarati	38,319	21,836	18,483
1 Gujarati	36,025	20,645	15,380
2 Saurashtra/ Saurashtri	11	7	4
3 Other*	2,283	1,184	1,099
3 Hindi	4,479,170	2,602,268	1,876,902
1 Hindi	3,589,858	2,143,282	1,446,576
2 Awadhi	295	192	103
3 Bhojpuri	50,344	29,248	21,096
4 Braj Bhasha	52	23	29
5 Bundeli/Bundel Khandi	13	10	3
6 Chattisgarhi	1,599	790	809
7 Garhwali	572	272	240
8 Haryanvi	152	93	59
9 Kangri	1	1	0
10 Khairari	16	9	7
11 Kortha/Khotta	73,757	37,597	36,160
12 Kumauni	348	173	175
13 Lamani/Lambadi	1	0	1
14 Magadhi/Magahi	2,120	1,194	926
15 Mathiili	10,215	6,160	4,055
16 Marwari	26,006	13,912	12,094
17 Nagpuria	498	269	229
18 Pahari	2,080	1,026	1,054
19 Rajasthani	8,543	4,545	3,998
20 Sadan/Sadri	371,655	188,950	182,705
21 Sanori	124	63	61
22 Surjapuri	103,321	53,064	50,257
23 Other*	24,677	13,217	11,460

4 Konkani	994	474	470
1 Konkani	800	434	398
2 Malwani	14	6	8
3 Other*	130	64	66
5 Oriya	170,001	107,939	62,062
1 Oriya	168,351	107,037	61,314
2 Proja	117	65	52
3 Sambalpuri	5	2	3
4 Other*	1,528	835	693
6 Punjabi	271,376	39,707	31,669
1 Punjabi	66,418	36,962	29,456
2 Bagri	24	20	4
3. Other*	4,934	2,725	2,209
7 Sindhi	5,404	2,800	2,604
1. Sindhi	5,278	2,727	2,551
2 Kachchhi	108	63	45
3. Other*	18	10	8

Note: '*' - Total of other mother tongues with less than 10,000 speakers in India grouped under the above language

(Source: Table C-7 Census of India 1991)

Similarly, out of the 96 Non-Scheduled languages returned in 1991 Census, 72 are spoken in West Bengal of which only 8 have more than one mother tongue grouped under each of them, which have at least 10,000 speakers in India. In Table 5 below are presented these eight languages having more than one mother tongue grouped under each.

Table 5: Distribution of the 96 non-scheduled languages and the mother tongues (having minimum of 10,000 speakers in India) included under them in West Bengal -1991 with their language/family wise classification

Language/Mother Tongue	Persons	Males	Females
West Bengal			
1 Adi, TC	65	42	23
1 Adi	2	2	0
2 Adi Gallong/Gallong	1	0	1
3 Other@	62	40	22
2 Bhili/Bhilodi	77	41	36
1 Baori	24	13	11
2 Kokna/Kokni/Kukna	5	2	3
3 Rathi	3	2	1
4 Other@	45	24	21
3 Bodo/Boro	25,168	12,804	12,364
1 Bodo/Boro	18,989	9,625	9,364
2 Kachari	29	13	16
3 Other@	6,150	3,166	2,984

4	Gondi	731	355	376
1	Gondi	60	34	26
2	Ganda/Gando	319	160	159
3	Maria	71	35	36
4	Muria	174	79	95
5.	Other@	107	47	60
5	Korwa	322	172	150
1	Korwa	270	140	130
2	Koraku	12	9	3
3	Other@	40	23	17
6	Munda	46,328	23,635	22,693
1	Munda	43,949	22,460	21,489
2	Kol	1,798	898	900
3	Other@	581	277	304
7	Nissi/Dafla	1	1	0
1	Nissi/Dafla	1	1	0
2	Apatani	3	0	3
3	Tagin	3	0	3
4	Other@	1	1	0
8	Tripuri	66	47	19
1	Tripuri	51	35	16
2	Kok Barak	12	12	0
3	Reang	3	0	3

Note: '**' - Total of other mother tongues with less than 10,000 speakers in India grouped under the above language

(Source: Table C-7 Census of India 1991)

Bilingualism and Trilingualism:

The speakers of languages classified by their second and third language in West Bengal in 1991 Census also highlights some significant features in the network of their communication in the societal plane. The trends of bi- and tri-lingualism among the speakers of the five major linguistic communities of West Bengal (i.e. Bengali, Hindi, Santali, Nepali and Urdu), nevertheless, reflect the following observations:

- The Bengali speakers are more bilingual in English than Hindi whereas the Hindi speakers are more bilingual in Bengali than English.
- Also, the Santali speakers are more bilingual in Bengali than Hindi.
- On the contrary, the Nepali speakers are more bilingual in Hindi than Bengali.
- Lastly, among the Bengali and Hindi speakers bilingualism is essentially male-oriented and it is significantly high for the males than their female counterpart among the Nepali and Urdu speakers while among the Santali speakers bilingualism is slightly high among the male-members in comparison to the females.

Presented below in Table 6 are the returns of bi- and tri-lingual figures of the state of West Bengal in 1991 Census by these five major linguistic communities:

Table 6: Speakers of each language classified by their second and third languages in West Bengal: 1991 Census

Language	Persons	Males	Females
A. BENGALI			
1. Total number of Bengali speakers	58,541,519	30,229,670	28,311,849
2. Monolinguals	52,912,962	26,299,813	26,613,139
3. Total number speaking a second language	5,628,567	3,929,857	1,698,710
4. Total number speaking a third language also	1,775,423	1,209,187	566,236
5. Total number speaking only two languages	3,853,144	2,720,670	1,132,474
<u>Number speaking second language:</u>			
1. English	4,438,559	3,022,967	1,415,592
a. Third language : Hindi	1,190,008	906,890	283,118
b. Not speaking a third language	3,248,551	2,116,077	1,132,474
2. Hindi	1,190,008	906,890	283,118
a. Third language : English	585,415	302,297	283,118
b. Not speaking a third language	604,593	604,593	0
B. HINDI			
1. Total number of Hindi speakers	4,479,170	2,602,268	1,876,902
2. Monolinguals	3,375,155	1,873,633	1,501,522
3. Total number speaking a second language	1,104,015	728,635	375,380
4. Total number speaking a third language also	167,651	130,113	37,538
5. Total number speaking only two languages	936,364	598,522	337,842
<u>Number speaking second language:</u>			
1. Bengali	775,966	794,431	281,535
a. Third language : English	96,837	78,068	18,769
b. Not speaking a third language	679,129	416,363	262,766
2. English	283,257	208,181	75,076
a. Third language : Bengali	70,814	416,363	262,766
b. Not speaking a third language	212,443	156,136	56,307
3. Nepali	44,792	26,023	18,769
a. Not speaking a third language	0	0	0

Language	Persons	Males	Females
C. SANTALI			
1. Total number of Santali speakers	1,858,010	941,743	916,267
2. Monolinguals	900,499	433,203	467,296
3. Total number speaking a second language	957,511	508,540	448,977
4. Total number speaking a third language also	28,252	28,252	0
5. Total number speaking only two languages	929,259	480,283	448,971
<u>Number speaking second language:</u>			
1. Bengali	929,514	489,706	439,808
a. Third language : English	18,835	18,835	0
b. Third language : Hindi	9,417	9,417	0
c. Not speaking a third language	901,262	461,454	439,808
2. English	9,417	9,417	0
a. Not speaking a third language	9,417	9,417	0
3. Hindi	18,580	9,417	9,163
a. Not speaking a third language	18,580	9,417	9,163
D. NEPALII			
1. Total number of Nepali speakers	860,403	439,591	420,812
2. Monolinguals	657,175	312,109	345,066
3. Total number speaking a second language	203,228	127,482	75,746
4. Total number speaking a third language also	7,800	52,752	25,248
5. Total number speaking only two languages	125,228	74,730	50,498
<u>Number speaking second language:</u>			
1. Bengali	26,000	17,584	8,416
a. Third language : Hindi	13,000	8,792	4,208
b. Not speaking a third language	13,000	8,792	4,208
2. English	34,604	21,980	12,624
a. Third language : Hindi	21,604	13,188	8,416
b. Not speaking a third language	13,000	8,492	4,208
3. Hindi	142,624	87,918	54,706
a. Third language : Bengali	17,396	13,188	4,208
b. Third language : English	26,000	17,584	8,416
c. Not speaking a third language	99,228	57,146	42,082

Language	Persons	Males	Females
E. URDU			
1. Total number of Urdu speakers	1,455,649	814,628	641,021
2. Monolinguals	1,084,793	578,386	506,407
3. Total number speaking a second language	370,856	236,242	134,614
4. Total number speaking a third language also	84,400	65,170	19,230
5. Total number speaking only two languages	286,456	171,072	115,384
<u>Number speaking second language:</u>			
1. Arabic/Arbi	43,670	24,439	19,231
a. Not speaking a third language	43,670	24,439	19,231
2. Bengali	118,188	73,317	44,871
a. Third language : English	8,146	8,146	0
b. Third language : Hindi	22,703	16,293	6,410
c. Not speaking a third language	87,339	48,878	38,461
3. English	53,551	40,731	12,820
a. Third language : Bengali	8,146	8,146	0
b. Third language : Hindi	14,556	8,146	6,410
c. Not speaking a third language	30,849	24,439	6,410
4. Hindi	155,447	97,755	57,692
a. Third language : Bengali	22,703	16,293	6,410
b. Third language : English	8,146	8,146	0
c. Not speaking a third language	124,598	73,316	51,282

(Source: Table C-8 Census of India 1991)

Language tables based on 2001 Census are likely to be published by the middle of 2004. The dataset for 1991 Census is available in electronic format and for a few states in print format.

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